DAILY REPORT

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BIGNONE CALLS CABINET MEETING TO DISCUSS MARCH

PY171459 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1340 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (NA) -- President Reynaldo Bignone has called a full cabinet meeting to be held at 1730 [2030 GMT] this afternoon. The meeting will discuss the events which took place during yesterday's march staged by the Multiparty Group.

Speech to Cabinet, Nation

PY180154 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0031 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Speech by Argentine President Reynaldo Bignone to his cabinet and to the nation from Government House on 17 December -- recorded]

[Text] Ministers, secretaries: I have called this cabinet meeting which will be unusual both in form and substance; unusual in form because the meeting will reach the entire nation through television cameras; and unusual in substance because we will discuss only one issue, while we normally meet around this table to discuss several issues related to the status of the government.

We will discuss only one issue because incidents occurred yesterday in the country, specifically in front of this very Government House, which I have to regard as serious. We should assume our share of responsibility and the national government should seriously face these incidents.

It would be really too dangerously easy for us, as the government, to limit ourselves to putting part of the blame on the organizers, who were warned in sufficient time that these types of incidents could happen. At the same time it would be too easy for us to let the organizers and other persons put the blame on the government for adopting measures to prevent chaos.

To do this would mean to not see the forest for the trees because the one truth in all this is that they [the political leaders] and we, we and they, are steadily seeking the same objective. We could perhaps, disagree on forms, dates, but all this can be solved through democratic dialogue.

What indeed became clear yesterday -- and this is what I felt I should plainly state before my national cabinet -- there are present in the country those who in no way share our same objective and this was proved yesterday.

The struggle for power is both legitimate and authentic. Although struggle may not be the most appropriate word, it is nonetheless significant. In this struggle the main instruments are precisely the political parties.

This is why I say it is both legitimate and authentic; and therefore, the demonstration staged by political parties is legitimate and authentic.

Instead, what we ought to make quite clear is that the government is ready and firmly determined to prevent anything which may not be in keeping with the legitimate struggle for power in the times and fashions which are established or will be established. That is, the government will prevent an assault on power, which is something entirely different and it became clearly evident yesterday that there are groups -- fortunately minor groups -- which seek to seize power through violence.

In view of these ideas that I am conveying to you and to the nation -- since I wanted the people to watch us through the cameras -- I felt it necessary for us to sit around this table; for us to look at each other's faces under these circumstances; for you and I to exchange views on what happened yesterday in the second part of this meeting and also to present to you and to jointly decide on a draft communique which the government will release on yesterday's incidents at Plaza de Mayo.

In no way do I want to end here these initial reflections or to move into the second part of the meeting because when I say we and they, they and we share a common objective and that we are firmly engaged in achieving this common objective -- when I say they I am not speaking disparagingly but I am referring with due respect to the country's political leaders. In making this reference I feel once again the need -- and I convey it to you -- of outlining again actions carried out by the government and which are precisely civilized ways of achieving the objective.

I am referring to the meeting I held with political leaders before I assumed the presidency. I am also referring to the successive separate meetings which both the interior minister and myself held in this house with all national parties -- with some exceptions -- and with the leadership of those parties. I am also talking about the meetings that the government is still holding -- either with individual leaders or small groups -- with representatives not only of political sectors, but also of the business, cultural and union sectors, meetings you are so well aware of.

As I said, I feel that it is necessary, not to begin all over again, not at all, but to regain strength in a new meeting with the political leadership. For this purpose, I have given the Interior Ministry the necessary instructions. As I said, we should by no means put the blame on each other because we cannot see the forest for the trees. If we did that we would be running the serious risk that instead of building a democracy -- a goal on which I am absolutely sure all of us agree -- we would be setting the country on fire. We should be absolutely aware, please excuse me for using this figure of speech, that none of us is wearing fire-proof clothing. But we also have the obligation, we as the government and the sectorial leaders as leaders, to preserve the nation and to drive it along the course it should never abandon.

Please let me include in these reflections a very concrete reference to the fact in itself and, in particular, to the Federal Police. The Federal Police who acted yesterday are our police. They belong to us, to the people who are here. They also, however, belong to all Argentines. They also belong to those who, peacefully, staged the demonstration yesterday. They also belong to the future constitutional government, because they are the country's Federal Police.

Yesterday, the Federal Police, made up of men who are flesh and blood as we are, for about 4 hours received all kinds of affronts and insults in front of Government House. The Federal Police entered into action, first, only when they received an order from the government, which has, therefore, assumed the responsibility and, second, when the security of the nation was in real danger. Because it is the government's essential duty to preserve national security and the government will fulfill that duty. I said when the security of the nation was in real danger, and this is no exaggeration because I don't like exaggerations. If we had not done what we did, an assault on the Government House would not have been unlikely. This means an assault on the government. I have differentiated perfectly well between the legitimate aspiration and the struggle for power and an assault on power, which we will prevent with all available means.

Also, as a conclusion to these reflections, I would like to address some words to the nation, to those who did not participate directly in the events.

A large crowd demonstrated peacefully, while a small minority engaged in violent actions that neither the crowd, the leaders nor the government, obviously, wanted.

A vast majority of the people, however, learned about the facts through mass media, and it is logical to think that these people, the inhabitants of this Argentine soil, who are so praiseworthy, this morning may have awakened with a bitter aftertaste because of what they may have seen or learned through mass media.

To those people, to the Argentines and foreigners who are living on Argentine soil and who have aspirations for a better future for themselves and for their children, we tell them that the government has committed itself to closing its ranks in the discharging of its governmental duties, so that by closing ranks all of us together -- and with a clear idea of the goal we are pursuing -- we may give our nation the necessary tools for choosing, on its own will, the constitutional government that will rule the country, the constitutional government all of us want to succeed us. All this however, should take place in order, peacefully and firmly, under such conditions that the new government should not have to face even something similar to what happened yesterday. Conditions must be such that the new government should be strong and able to build a sound future. A sound future for all of us, because both this government and the future government -- like all governments -- are for all Argentines.

Gentlemen: My final appeal to us here is to continue working enthusiastically, with the same enthusiasm that we have been working with so far, with renewed enthusiasm. We make mistakes -- we are human -- let us admit them and correct them whenever necessary; and, above all, as I have repeatedly said at this table, let us keep in close contact with the leaders of the sectors which correspond to your specific areas.

Because it is clear that we are all united in the pursuit of that goal and that we must keep in mind what I said before. All of us together should struggle to achieve that goal, and we should know who does not want it and who, on the contrary, wants something quite different, involving a very different future for our country.

We shall now begin the second phase of this meeting, which will not be open to the public as was the first phase, during which the president's appeal has been launched to the nation and during which the government has reaffirmed its commitment, united as it must work seriously in order to neutralize -- for the sake of the nation's tranquillity -- the dangers and obstacles which may appear in the struggle for the attainment of that goal. This is our purpose.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ON 16 DECEMBER INCIDENTS

PY1802[illegible]5 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0043 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (NA) -- With regard to the incidents which occurred last night, the national government has stated that "the behavior of those who attended the march to voice their support for democracy should be clearly distinguished from the provocative actions carried out by certain individuals."

In a communique released tonight, the executive branch stated that "blaming the police for the provocations will only create more problems for the nation and weaken the objective of democracy that is being pursued."

Here is the text of the communique:

"In view of the incidents which occurred during the political march held yesterday, the national government deems it necessary to report that, in compliance with its duty to preserve peace and public security, the national government gave all the cooperation that was agreed on with the political leaders who called for and assumed the responsibility of organizing and leading the march.

"In this regard, the organizers were warned by the pertinent organs of the risks posed by the infiltration of radical individuals. To this effect, all the available information on their identity, number and likeliness to stage violent acts was provided to the march's organizers.

"Similarly, the national government suggested the adoption of a series of measures designed to reduce the risks of possible incidents without affecting the objectives of the march. On its part, the national government adopted all the measures necessary to attain that end.

"Unfortunately, the incidents proved that the measures of control adopted by the organizers were easily broken by the agitators.

"The pertinent state organs are investigating the events which resulted in a distressing number of injured policemen and demonstrators and in one casualty. Moreover, they are evaluating the damages inflicted on public and private property.

"The national government believes that the behavior of those who attended the march to voice their support for democracy should be clearly distinguished from the provocative actions carried out by certain individuals.

"The national government also believes that the political sectors and their leaders should also make this distinction, because disregarding the fact and adopting the irresponsible attitude of blaming the police forces for the provocations will only create more problems for the nation and weaken the objective of democracy that is being pursued.

"In addition to revealing a disregard for the real situation, such behavior is the repetition of a political mistake which has already created enough problems for the nation.

"We must bear in mind, and learn from the events in the international political field, that the democratization process will prosper only if the participating political sectors express and comply with their decision to neither allow, provoke nor justify any kind of violent actions.

"The Argentine people should be aware that those persons who do not believe in democracy will continue to carry out aggressive and disruptive actions. Moreover, these actions will not only be carried out within the present government's term of office but, as can be seen from the recent historical experience, they will continue to be carried out after the institutionalization process is concluded.

"Notwithstanding the recurrence of these destabilizing attempts, the national government will inexorably continue to fulfill, together with the authentic democratic forces, the mandate entrusted to it by the armed forces."

FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PY182003 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0250 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (TELAM) -- Gen Juan Bautista Sasiain, chief of the Federal Police, has stated that what happened after yesterday's multiparty march was not repression. He said that the police sought to reestablish order through the legitimate use of public force. He also claimed that the incidents were the result of disruptive actions carried out by infiltrated leftist agitators.

In a press conference held yesterday afternoon to explain the role which the police had played, General Sasiain lamented the death of the young demonstrator Delmiro Flores in front of the Cabildo and admitted that the Federal Police has a vehicle which bears the same license plate as the car the alleged murderer of the youth got out of.

The general was asked twice whether the personnel of this police vehicle were under arrest. He answered first that he did not know and then added that investigations are underway "although I have no confirmed information that the vehicle in question is where the bullet and the men involved came from. This is being investigated."

Further on the police chief was asked about the reasons for the attack on the photographers of news media. To this he said: "There are exceptions to every rule. The news media reported the events in full today. This means that all news media operated freely and that the incident on Avenida de Mayo and 9 de Julio is an exception to the rule which has prompted us to take action."

The Federal Police chief was also asked about the tear gas bombs hurled at party headquarters. It was reported that one of these bombs had gone into the very building housing the Intransigent Party. General Sasiain denied that the tear gas bomb had gone into the building and explained: "when the disturbances and the actions to disperse the agitators started, violence broke out at various points of downtown Buenos Aires, in Florida and Corrientes, in Plata Lavalle, 9 de Julio, Avenida de Mayo, in Rodriguez Pena and Corrientes streets. At that point the police were ordered to disperse all demonstrators."

He added that up to that moment the police had even supplied protection to large groups of people that had been moving toward party headquarters. "We have nothing against the parties. When the order to disperse the demonstrators came, the police cars and the armored vehicles took to the streets and found that large groups of persons had gathered in front of the headquarters of the Intransigent Party, the MID [Integration and Development Movement] and the UCR [Radical Civic Union]. The police then hurled tear gas bombs at them to disperse them."

General Sasiain emphasized that this should under no circumstances be viewed as an action against the freedom of political parties with whom "we were working together just a couple of hours earlier."

Sasiain also said that of the 34 policemen injured during the clashes, 5 are in shock while the others are improving rapidly. The chief of police said that he had no information about the condition of injured civilians and added that the policemen were attacked with stones, iron bars, sticks, bricks and so forth. When asked whether civilians carrying arms had been arrested, he said that there were two cases of persons arrested while carrying .22-cal pistols. He also said that personnel of the 6th Police Precinct arrested seven members of [unspecified] parties who were carrying chains, iron bars and sticks.

These were the highlights of General Sasiain's answers to journalists questions. At the beginning of the press conference the general read a statement in which he indicated that "reporting on yesterday's events, certain news media spoke of repression while all the police did was to try to reestablish order through the legitimate use of public force which must be used without shame to restore, calm and peace in every sector as soon as possible. He emphasized that the crisis which erupted in downtown Buenos Aires was resolved in less than 1 hour.

The police chief went on to say that the violation of public order and the destruction of public and private property will never do us any good as Argentina's recent history proves. The worst thing that we Argentines can do is to support or justify violent behavior. It would be tantamount to making a deal with the devil. Violence has always been the first step toward and the right atmosphere for terrorism. If we are all convinced that we are on our way toward national institutionalization, I would like to know what is it that these agitators want? I can find only one answer: To stop our progress with nefarious objectives in mind."

It is worth pointing out that during the press conference, which was held at the situation room of the General Directorate for Operations, the journalists were shown a film made from Government House. This film shows demonstrators throwing stones and other objects at Government House and breaking street lights. The film also shows the police dispersing the demonstrators with tear gas bombs.

POLICE COMMUNIQUE ON YOUTH KILLED DURING MARCH

FY172343 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1528 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (NA) -- Today the Federal Police asked that those persons who witnessed the murder of the youth Dalmiro Flores in front of the Cabildo [First Government House] yesterday, report to the 2d Police Precinct or to the Justice Palace to bear witness. The police communique also reports that an inquest is being conducted to investigate the charges of "homicide, public intimidation, damages, robbery, attacks on and disobedience of police authority, injuries and arson."

Dr Fernando Zavalia, federal judge of the Criminal and Correctional Lower Court, is hearing the case assisted by Dr Tomas Nicholson, the court's secretary.

The judicial inquest encompasses all the events which occurred yesterday at the end of the march called by the Multiparty Group. The 2d Federal Police Precinct is conducting the investigation.

The witnesses must report to the 2d Police Precinct or to the lower court.

Here is the text of the communique:

"The Federal Police hereby report that an inquest is being conducted by the 2d Police Precinct to investigate the charges of homicide, public intimidation, damages, robbery, attacks on and disobedience of police authority, injuries and arson. The Federal Police also report that Dr Fernando Zavalia, federal judge of the Criminal and Correctional Lower Court, is hearing the case assisted by Dr Tomas Nicholson, the court's secretary. As for the murder of Dalmiro Flores which occurred at the corner of Bolivar and Hipolito Yrigoyen streets late last night, the Federal Police hereby ask all those persons who witnessed the homicide or who have any knowledge of it report either to the 2d Police Precinct, located on 1050 Peru Street, or to the lower court, located at the Justice Palace."

POLICE REPORTEDLY RELEASE MARCH DETAINEES

FY172333 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1544 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (DYN) -- Party sources have reported that the persons detained by the Federal Police yesterday during the demonstration organized by the Multiparty Group at Plaza de Mayo, have begun to be released. The detainees, numbering approximately 120, were kept at a police station in the downtown area. According to the sources, many of them were released today after police checked their identification and verified their records.

UOCRA LEADERS SAY MEMBER KILLED 16 DEC

PY172215 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (NA) -- The Construction Workers Union of the Argentine Republic [UOCRA] reported today that UOCRA member Tadeo Fidel Reyes was "beaten to death by the police" during the serious incidents which occurred yesterday at the end of the march called by the Multiparty Group. This information was provided today by some of the UOCRA leaders who showed up at the Argerich Hospital, where Reyes's body is being kept. If this report is officially confirmed, the number of persons killed during yesterday's incidents would total two. Similarly, it was learned that another person was shot and that he is presumed to be in serious condition. The report on Reyes' death was made by UOCRA leader Rogelio Papagano. Papagano has announced that he will meet with the UOCRA this afternoon to analyze the incidents which occurred around Government House yesterday. The union leaders who showed up at the Argerich Hospital stated that "it is being said that Reyes fell from the seventh floor of a building. However, this is totally false because he was beaten to death by the police."

MULTIPARTY GROUP DEMONSTRATIONS IN PROVINCES

PY171355 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0212 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Dec (NA) -- Demonstrations in support of the march organized by the multiparty group took place in the main provincial capitals of the country today. Only in Neuquen were there a few incidents, provoked by the followers of various Peronist trends.

In Mendoza, over 2,000 people gathered in front of the Justicialist Party headquarters. The Justicialist Party organized the event together with the Junin branch of the General Labor Confederation and the 62 Organizations. The main body of the demonstrators marched in a column along San Martin Street -- Mendoza's main street -- shouting anti-government slogans. The march continued to Government House and then headed for San Lorenzo Monastery where the people dispersed.

In Parana, a column of cars with Argentine flags and Communist Party posters made a brief trip through the main streets of this riverside city.

In the city of Salta, the rally organized in support of the multiparty march took place at 2000 without incidents. The rally was attended by about 500 persons, a number considered large for a political mobilization in Salta.

In Rio Gallegos, about 600 persons approved a document of the local Multiparty Group, which asks for the fixing of an electoral schedule. The demonstrators shouted slogans against the military government in the main downtown streets of the city, while the police mounted an unobtrusive guard.

In Tucuman, over 2,000 people participated in a heavy rain in the march "for civilian rule" organized by the provincial Multiparty Group. The demonstrators gathered in Plaza Yrigoyen and marched toward Plaza Independencia, where Tucuman Government House is located. The leaders of the five organizing parties read a document of the local Multiparty Group from the steps of the government building and 1 minute of silence was then observed.

In Neuquen, shops closed at 1830 and a few minutes after 2130 three columns of demonstrators arrived in front of Government House. The main political leaders then gathered around Alberto Nievas (founder of the Justicialist Party) who was to read the Multiparty document. At that moment a group of about 50 followers of the former governor of the province, Felipe Sapag, started shouting party slogans and prevented the reading of the document.

Unofficial estimates of the number of demonstrators indicated there were about 1,500 people.

The political leaders of the Multiparty Group in San Juan headed a column of about 1,000 persons who marched along the downtown streets of this capital in the Cuyo region. The main event took place at Plaza 25 de Mayo, where the leader Cesar Gioja read a speech written in advance by the politicians.

In Cordoba there was a march of about 200 people representing the Intransigent Party, the Peronists, the Progressive Democratic Party and the Cordoba Multisectorial Organization. The Radicals and the Integration and Development Movement (MID) did not participate in the event.

LABOR UNION TO STRIKE NATIONWIDE ON 22 DECEMBER

PY182141 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0125 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Dec (DYN) -- Union sources tonight revealed that the Azopardo Branch of the General Labor Confederation has decided to stage a nationwide strike on 22 December, if the government fails to satisfy its basic demands. The sources indicated that the advancement of the date of the strike, which was originally scheduled for 23 December, is a sign of the growing discontent within the moderate labor union caused by government dilatory tactics.

CGT-BRASIL SCORES REPRESSION, THREATENS ACTION

PY192031 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 Dec 82 p 9

[Text] (DYN) -- The hardline Brasil wing of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT-Brasil) will take measures of "direct action" as early as next week if the government does not meet their socio-economic, and political demands, according to a statement issued last night. The CGT-Brasil also declared a "state of alert of the organized labour movement." The union grouping condemned the "brutal repression against demonstrators in the multiparty march" on Thursday and said that the government should give an immediate answer to their seven-point list of demands of last September, announce the election dates, and say when a civilian government will be sworn in.

AEROFLOT TO START BUENOS AIRES-MOSCOW FLIGHTS

PY171811 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Excerpt] After inaugurating the Buenos, Aires-Viedma-General Roca-Bariloche flight, Aerolineas Argentinas President Juan Pellegrini announced in General Roca, Rio Negro Province, that a regular service between the Argentine capital and Moscow will be initiated next 1 February. The company in charge of the flights will be the Soviet state airline Aeroflot.

HUNGER STRIKERS BANISHED TO NORTHERN CHILE

PY181959 Paris AFP in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Dec 82

[Text] Santiago, 14 Dec (AFP) -- Today the Chilean Government ordered internal banishment to desolate regions in the north of the country for three women and a man who were detained while on a hunger strike in a church in downtown Santiago. The four banished persons belonged to a group of 12 who were protesting the expulsion from the country of two labor leaders and the banishment of five others to various places in the north of the country. The National Social Communications Office reported that the banished persons were proven guilty of repeated actions of a political nature and of acts disturbing public order.

Those banished are Elvira Morales Fuentes, ordered to Tierra Amarilla, Mariana Donoso Rivas to El Salado, Veronica Correa Guzman to Ma ina and Roberto Trincado Cujetkovic to Baquedano.

200 ARRESTED FOLLOWING SANTIAGO DEMONSTRATIONS

PY161630 Paris AFP in Spanish 1534 GMT 16 Dec 82

[Text] Santiago, 16 Dec (AFP) -- Police sources disclosed that approximately 200 people who were arrested after antigovernment demonstrations on Wednesday night were placed at the disposal of the Interior Ministry today.

The demonstrations were followed by power cuts which left several neighborhoods of the Chilean capital and the neighboring cities of Valparaiso and Vina del Mar -- 140 km to the east -- in the dark around midnight. However, there was no official information on the causes for these power cuts.

While carabineros and security agents centered their action in downtown Santiago to prevent the gathering of leftist groups, three men armed with machineguns set fire to a bus after forcing all the passengers and driver out of the vehicle. Most arrests were carried out at the Plaza de Armas and Ahumada Boulevard, where the demonstrators shouted slogans and distributed pamphlets protesting against unemployment and price increases and demanded bread, justice, work and freedom. The police action was backed by a helicopter which overflew the downtown area, where the members of the opposition mixed with thousands of people doing their Christmas shopping. One fifth of the arrested persons are women. Some minors, who were released early this morning, were also arrested according to the sources.

A few hours before the incident, the National Intelligence Center (CNI) had pointed out that the outlawed Communist Party was planning street demonstrations.

MINISTER WARNS AGAINST STREET INCIDENTS

PY180014 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1548 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Santiago, 17 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Vicariate of Solidarity, which is subordinate to the Catholic Church, has presented court injunctions in favor of more than 140 of the 200 persons detained during the violent incidents which occurred on Wednesday in this capital, sources of the vicariate reported.

The injunctions were presented at the request of relatives of the detainees, who are at the disposal of the Interior Ministry in several police stations in Santiago, it was officially reported.

The incidents took place when youth groups staged impromptu demonstrations for several hours in the streets of downtown Santiago, shouting slogans against the military government and protesting the high unemployment rate.

Similar demonstrations were staged in several cities in the interior of the country, when opposition groups called for a so-called hunger march through the capital.

Interior Minister Enrique Montero stated yesterday that the detainees records are being studied to establish what legal actions might be brought against them.

Referring to the study on the situation of thousands of exiles, Montero said that the demonstrators were trying to discredit the measures which the government is adopting, for the purpose of seeking coexistence and national unity.

The minister handed over to President Augusto Pinochet the first report by a special commission, in which conditions are established for the return of the exiles who are not allowed to return to the country.

He added that the incidents have increased during the past few days, when the commission he is leading was getting ready to present its report to the chief of state.

With our systems of deterrence we are in a position to control any situation which could disrupt public order, and we are not worried at all, Montero warned.

Admits Terrorist Escalation

PY172355 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 16 Dec 82

[Graciela Conreras report from La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Enrique Montero said that he is waiting for the carabineros to complete their report on the events that took place in Santiago a few nights ago which were provoked by certain sectors. He said that the movement had been (?discovered) in time by the government and that precautionary measures had been taken in order to preserve public order.

General Montero explained that some people have been detained and we will establish the reasons for the detentions in order to apply the rules of the law. He further reported that 20 persons are being detained, but observed that there is an escalation of extremist action, although he said that he had his own opinion about that.

SOUTH KOREAN PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR MEXICO

SK171127 Seoul YONHAP in English 1117 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Santiago, Chile, Dec. 16 (YONHAP) -- South Korean Prime Minister Kim Sang-hyop left here for Mexico Thursday, winding up an official visit to three Latin American nations -- Colombia, Peru and Chile.

Kim is scheduled to spend overnight in Miami, Florida, and then proceed to Mexico City Saturday, where he will pay a courtesy call on De la Madrid and convey South Korean President Chon Tu-hean's congratulations on his inauguration Dec. 1, as the Mexican president.

During a scheduled two-day stay in Mexico, Kim, accompanied by a group of Korean Government officials, will also meet with leaders of the Mexican upper and lower houses and senior government officials.

PLRA VICE PRESIDENT LAINO EXPELLED FROM COUNTRY

PLRA Communique

PY161631 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Dec 82 p 8

[Text] Yesterday the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) issued a communique repudiating the expulsion of Domingo Laino. The communique, signed by PLRA President Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin and PLRA Secretary Miguel Abdon Saguier, points out that the measure taken by the government "represents a flagrant violation of clear constitutional guarantees and once again demonstrates that the regime is not prepared for democracy."

Further in the communique, the PLRA "repudiates the arbitrary expulsion of Domingo Laino, holding Gen Alfredo Stroessner, head of the executive power, responsible for this measure." It also voices its solidarity with the second vice president of the PLRA (Domingo Laino), and conveys the party's and the democratic citizenry's sympathy to Laino's family.

The communique ends by stating that "Laino's expulsion will not put an end to his struggle nor to that of the PLRA, which will continue to uphold its steadfast position before the regime."

In answering inquiries made last night at the Public Relations Department of the police department of this capital, Osvaldo Palacios Morinigo stated that no official communique will be issued on Domingo Laino's expulsion. The chief of the Public Relations Department simply pointed out that "Domingo Laino left the country at 0730 today (referring to yesterday) and crossed over to Argentine territory through Puerto Falcon."

Palacios refused to make any further comments when asked about the causes for Laino's expulsion and whether the measure was final. When inquiries were made at the press office of the Investigations Department -- which is where Laino was held under arrest until his expulsion -- whether an official communique would be issued on this case, it was stated that "we are not handling this case. It is in the hands of the chief of police. Therefore, we cannot give any information."

National Accord Communique

PY172142 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Dec 82 p 13

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Yesterday, the National Accord Coordination Board issued a statement on the expulsion of Domingo Laino, vice president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA). The communique points out that "the measures adopted by government authorities against Laino by no means contribute to the creation of the desired atmosphere of social peace and reconciliation among all Paraguayans."

At the end of the meeting of the National Accord Coordination Board yesterday, the political organization decided to issue the following communique:

"In view of the expulsion ordered by the government authorities under circumstances which are of public knowledge, the National Accord declares: 1. That it considers that it is the National Accord's undeniable duty to voice its solidarity with Domingo Laino, his family and the Authentic Radical Liberal Party in this painful and unjust emergency."

"2. That democratic coexistence entails the existence of various viewpoints within a duly protected political and social body with the backing of judicial security for its existence. As a consequence, tolerance should be and is the variable norm of any society which considers itself belonging to the Western and Christian world. To advocate the contrary represents totalitarism."

"3. That the measures taken by the authorities against Laino do not contribute to the creation of the desired atmosphere of social peace and reconciliation among Paraguayans."

"4. Based on the spirit and words of the National Constitution, the National Accord cateorically states that the freedom of expression represents an undeniable right. Therefore, its exercise cannot be considered contrary to social order."

Moreover, it was disclosed that at 1700 yesterday Laino was summoned by the authorities in Clorinda and spoke with Commander Todossi, military intelligence chief of Squadron 16, and that the subject discussed was Laino's residence in Argentina, according to PLRA sources.

Laino Interview

PY162147 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Dec 82 p 8

[Text] Dr Domingo Laino, vice president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) and author of the book "El General Comerciante" ["The Merchant General"] (Somoza), confiscated by the police, was deported to Clorinda yesterday after being held incommunicado at the Investigations Department of the police since last Thursday. The exiled politician has told this daily that he intends to return to Paraguay at the first opportunity and that, if the Paraguayan police really believe that he has contacts with Somoza's murderers, "It is an act of international discourtesy to send the Argentine people a Paraguayan go-between for terrorists."

[Question] How did your detention take place?

[Answer] "When I returned home on Thursday at about 1000 and drove the car into the garage, I noticed -- certainly without pleasure -- the presence of two high-ranking investigations officials, old acquaintances of mine. They greeted me and told me that the chief wanted to talk with me 'just for a little while.'

"My relatives told me that the house had been completely searched and that papers, books, folders, etc, had been confiscated, which did not surprise me at all, since it was not the first time that this kind of operation had taken place in my home. I noticed that the house was completely surrounded by plainclothesmen and that several cars were parked out front."

Laino said that the police then asked him for permission to inspect the maids' quarters and then they went into the street, where he was put into a green pickup and driven to the Investigations Department. He was taken to the Political Affairs Office, where he was questioned about the book "El General Comerciante" (Somoza).

He said that there he saw the publisher Enrique Velilla. Laino said that he regretted being the cause of Velilla's detention. Later, Laino saw copies of the book arriving at the police department, some unfinished, others about to be bound with covers. Laino added: "There are around 3,000 copies at a cost of 1,400 guaranies per book (initial sale price), which means that 4,200,000 guaranies of my money are now in the hands of the police."

Laino said that he then met his wife Rafaela in the office of Investigations Chief Pastor Coronel, where they were questioned about the books that were missing. "Instead of answering him, I asked him: Why do you persecute the author and hunt for a book which is an argument against corruption? Is it a crime to speak out against corruption? Coronel replied that he did not know what the book was about and that he was only following orders from higher up.

Coronel told me that they would be after the book until the case was totally cleared up. Then they locked me up and kept me incommunicado on the third floor of the building. That night when I asked if my wife had brought my supper they told me that she had been detained. That was a subtle act of psychological torture, because she had been released at 1400; that type of torture is not used in democratic countries."

He then reported that he was awakened yesterday at 0500 by the director of political affairs, who told him that he would be taken to the central police barracks, where he would get a larger room. He said that downstairs he found a medical team from the police police hospital made up of 10 or 12 doctors and orderlies, "led by a tall gentleman with a shaved head," who took an electrocardiogram and checked his pulse, blood pressure, etc. Then they took him to a private car and, accompanied by two plainclothesmen, he was taken to the Falcon customs station.

Laino said: "At the head of the Falcon bridge I was asked to step out of the car and one of those who accompanied me handed me my identity card and said to me: 'In the name of the government I inform you that you are expelled from the country. These are the orders I have received.' I presented myself to the Argentine customs officials. Personnel of the border police intelligence very politely accompanied me to the city and registered me at a hotel which I chose."

[Question] How many times have you been detained before?

[Answer] "I really do not keep count, but it is the first time this year. However, I have had policemen on the street corner of my home every day. I started writing that book 2 years ago with a full-time plainclothes guard from the investigations police. So I do not complain. I wrote well guarded in my own home. That is why I always liked the name of that movie picture 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' because the fact is that I cannot go abroad, at my home I have a guard on the corner, I cannot attend some diplomatic receptions, and they throw me out of the airport, etc. Then I said: A democrat cannot become trapped without any escape, so I started writing the book and I believe, in fact, that it was a good escape, because I wrote it while thinking about my country."

[Question] To whom is the book dedicated?

[Answer] "The Merchant General" (Somoza) is dedicated to all generals, colonels, captains, lieutenants of the armed forces who are engaged in the protection, defense of the sovereignty and of the territorial integrity of the republic. The book is also dedicated to all the military who have not become executioners of their people or influence peddlers. And I was inspired by my own country to write this book; I wrote "The Merchant General" thinking of my country. Somoza embodies and incarnates the figure of the corrupt militarist dictatorships which are devastating many of our Latin American countries, especially the southern cone countries," [quotation marks as published] Laino stated.

He added that "these men lack ideologies. Each one has a large number of private businesses and a personal fortune they have not earned honestly, but at the sacrifice and sweat of their people. Somoza was just like that, and through him I have personified all these military tyrants."

[Question] Could you briefly sum up the contents of the book?

[Answer] "Essentially the book deals with the Somoza dynasty, the origin of Somoza senior's fortune, who, once installed in the presidency, took advantage of a number of moneymaking channels such as bribes, presidential commissions, holding shares in all enterprises willing to locate in Nicaragua, dealing in liquor, prostitution and gambling. His son even ended up trafficking in blood through the Plasmaferesis company. This fortune increased tremendously.

"The book shows, for example, that Somoza even held common shares in U.S. companies such as United Fruit, the Intercontinental Hotel chain and other companies and with Bodward Schuz, the late U.S. multimillionaire. There were also the mines (there were five or six) in Nicaragua which were exploited for the production of gold and silver. They were in the hands of U.S. companies, which paid $400,000 a year to General Somoza Debayle," Laino said.

"One of the chapters of the book includes a complete list of Somoza's economic interests in Nicaragua and abroad. Then it discusses the economic repercussions and the cost to the Nicaraguan people of the guerrilla and popular rebellion. The book reveals how much the guerrilla resistance, the refusal of the tyrant to relinquish power and cede democracy to the people cost Nicaragua. The people were against Somoza, and he and his Natonal Guard refused to relinquish power in favor of democracy. They began to kill and to commit genocide, which represented the death of 1.5 percent of the overall population of Nicaragua." In addition to that, the loss of the livestock, industrial and commercial infrastructure increased to $500 million.

"Another chapter talks about the new government after Somoza, the recovery of the goods for the people. It supplies some data on the economic field. It concludes with the arrival of Somoza in Paraguay. The book mentions the mutual appreciation existing between Somoza and Stroessner, Somoza's death, its repercussions and the dragnet operations. The book concludes with a plea for the priority of human rights over the North-South flow of merchandise for repressive purposes: control and antiriot equipment and torture instruments produced by the rich countries and used by poor countries with dictatorial regimes."

"The introduction states that under all this great repressive apparatus, which causes so much human suffering, there is a corrupt economic model which in its functioning generates events as much or even more savage and inhuman than torture. I wanted to demonstrate all this when I wrote 'El General Commerciante.'"

[Question] In its communique, the police state that Somoza's murderers had been in contact with Paraguayan citizens, you among them. What do you have to say about this?

[Answer] "So I have just heard. In the first place, I wonder, if the police really believe what they have stated, why have they sent me to Argentina? Why did they expell me? Do the Paraguayan police want a terrorist to go the Republic of Argentina and cause a brother country problems?"

"In the second place, this is not the first time the Paraguayan police have invented this type of calumny against the authentic representatives of the Paraguayan opposition. When I went to Washington, they also said that I had gotten in touch with terrorist groups. I was brought to trial and released when a U.S. citizen came to certify that it was not true, that I had been invited to the United States by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA). The Paraguayan police have also invented similar stories about me, trying to present me as a terrorist, an extremist, merely because I, my party and the National Accord are against the dictatorship which has ruled Paraguay up to now. We will never give up our desire to struggle for the democracy and freedom of the people. They may continue to invent calumnies, but that is not going to get them anywhere since people no longer bleieve those stories. I have the satisfaction of being able to say that some high-ranking members of the police force itself have carefully expressed their solidarity with me. Some of them, in private, have made the sign of victory, signalling to me that the police themselves, who are in charge of repression, are admitting that this finally is coming to an end and that the new liberation day is at hand."

[Question] What does Domingo Laino plan to do while in exile?

[Answer] "Right now I am here with my wife and the wife of the PLRA president. Through them, I have learned what happened while I was being held incommunicado. I have just found out that the police are accusing me of having been in contact with the terrorist who murdered Somoza. Can you imagine such calumny? Two years later they discover a Paraguayan go-between for the terrorists, and instead of keeping him, they send him over to the Argentine people, as if the Argentines did not have their own problems. If the police really believe the charges against me, this is really a lack of international courtesy on the part of the Paraguayan police."

"From here I will continue to maintain contact with my party's leadership, but my first intention is to return to my country. Paraguay is my fatherland and I have every right to return to it, to return to that fatherland for which I have struggled, where my family, my children and parents live. I don't know when, but I believe that I will meet up with the Paraguayan people again very soon.

6 PERSONS ARRESTED BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH ORDER

PY172139 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Dec 82 p 21

[Text] It has been confirmed that six persons are under arrest at the security guard premises by order of the executive branch, which took this measure in view of the power granted it by the state of siege established in Article No 79 of the National Constitution. The persons under arrest at the security guard are Juan Manuel and Tiburcio Almeida, Fausto and Cayetano Aguero, Adolfo Riveros and Marcelino Ayala. Lawyers of the churches committee have requested writs of habeas corpus in their favor and have requested that the order of arrest be lifted.

The six were sailing along the Paraguay River in a small boat near Clorinda (Argentina) during the first half of September when they were intercepted by members of the naval prefecture, who arrested them and seized some packages that were laying among all kinds of merchandise.

The reason for their arrest was that pamphlets referring to the return operation of compatriots living in exile in the Republic of Argentina for political reasons were found in the packages. It was learned in court circles that apparently not all of them were involved in transporting the packages, that some of them were mere passengers.

The writs of habeas corpus issued by the Supreme Court of Justice were useless since the arrests were ordered by the executive branch and were carried out within the state of siege framework.

BRIEFS

NEW SWISS AMBASSADOR -- This morning President Alfredo Stroessner received the credentials of Lucian Pierre Jean Keusch, the new ambassador of the Swiss Confederation. [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 14 Dec 82 p 8 PY]

ISRAEL'S SHAMIR ARRIVES 16 DEC, MEETS ENVOYS

PY170328 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2012 GMT 16 Dec 82

[Text] Punta del Este, Uruguay, 16 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Israeli sources have reported that Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir has analyzed the state of his country's relations with South American nations during a meeting that he held here with the region's Israeli ambassadors. Shamir flew to this Uruguayan seaside resort today from Buenos Aires after concluding a 3-day official visit to Argentina. The meeting with the Israeli ambassadors to Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador and Bolivia will conclude tomorrow night. Shamir will begin his official visit to Uruguay on Sunday.

ELECTIONS WILL NOT CHANGE POLITICAL TIMETABLE

PY182315 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Interior Minister Gen Yamandu Trinidad has just stated that the result of the intraparty political elections will not change the political timetable established by the armed forces. At the same time he pointed out that there is no urgency in the country to attain a political opening. When asked about the possibility of a recurrence of incidents similar to those mentioned by the chief of police in his speech this morning once a political and labor union opening is achieved the minister stated:

[Begin Trinidad recording] I have the duty and right to be optimistic, if not I wouldn't he holding this post nor would I be consistent in my statements in which I have always voiced my deep confidence in our people. One always hopes that everyone will feel the same. The various stages which have been accomplished so far are steps which must be accomploshed before other far more important stages, where everyone will have to act calmly and responsibly as dictated by circumstances.

[Question] Mr Minister, what message would you convey to the Uruguayan workers?

[Answer] To keep on working, to have faith in the authorities who have been constantly seeking solutions, which are not easy to find and that we will try to alleviate their situation at this difficult time through every possible means.

[Question] [Words indistinct] requested that the election be advanced. Could this also happen in our country?

[Answer] I am not going to answer your question because it concerns an Argentine domestic problem and in this country we have established a timetable which the armed forces are going to observe. There are neither pressures nor demands from anyone here. I have time and again said that this is a process conducted by the armed forces and no one is entitled to exert pressure or demand provisions we are aware of and [words indistinct]

[Question] Do you mean, general, that it will not be necessary to change the timetable in light of the outcome of the recent intraparty elections?

[Answer] You are talking about intraparty election results. There is no reason for these results to influence the timetable and they will not. These election results only concern the parties. The country is one thing; the party something entirely different. [end recording]

SEPULVEDA AMOR ADDRESSES DIPLOMATIC CORPS

FL180206 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0059 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Mexico City, 17 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico will continue its international policy of unrestricted respect for the self-determination of all peoples in the world and of nonintervention, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor affirmed today. The foreign secretary indicated, before the diplomatic corps accredited to Mexico and on behalf of president Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, that there are no changes and will not be any in our foreign policy.

During a banquet hosted by the diplomatic corps in honor of the Mexican president and his wife, Paloma Cordero de la Madrid, the foreign secretary added that Mexico will maintain its international policy in favor of the peaceful solution of all differences, the preservation of peace and for the establishment of an equitable and efficient cooperation, both in the economic and political fields, without anachronistic leaderships.

He noted that Mexico will continue to struggle for the consolidation of Latin American unity and for the peaceful solution of Central American conflicts with respect for sovereignty and development. Working for the reconstruction of world security can no longer be postponed. There must be overall solutions in these moments of an economic crisis which has reached explosive levels that could become the cause for a confrontation, he stated.

He said that despite having been repeated many times, we keep forgetting that we are at the very end of the 20th century of great scientific and technological advances, but it is troubling to note that man has not yet found the basic formula for a more humane, understanding and tolerant world, the only viable alternative to the destruction of the species, collective suicide. He noted Mexico's conscious and responsible contribution in this task, not only in renouncing war, or in seeking a truce before more serious conflicts, but also in a peace which would imply the full recognition of unity in mankind's future.

Elsewhere in his speech, Sepulveda Amor said Mexico will overcome with firmness and calm the crisis it is enduring, based on our revolutionary nationalism, with freedom, with democracy, social and economic justice, and not as a temporary solution because our survival is at stake as an independent and sovereign nation.

On another subject, the Mexican foreign secretary expressed the wishes of the Mexican Government for maintaining a frank and friendly dialogue with the diplomatic missions accredited here, bearing in mind that the country is traversing a period of economic crisis in which we are not blaming foreign catastrophes or parties.

CENTRAL BANK ANNOUNCES PESO DEVALUATION

PA192205 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2058 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Central Bank of Mexico will devalue the peso by 47.4 percent in relation to the dollar for all controlled-market transactions as of tomorrow. In a document released today, the bank announces that the purchase and sale rate will be 95 and 95.10 pesos per dollar, as compared to the previous rate of 50 pesos. The document adds that a new rate will emerge tomorrow in the free market, to be determined by supply and demand. According to the document, it will be possible to adjust the exchange rate in the controlled market every day in order to maintain Mexico's commercial competitiveness. The document states that the initial annual variation will be 50 percent. It also announces an average 10 percent reduction in import taxes, which will be financed by the controlled market in order to reduce the prices of imported products as much as possible. According to the new exchange regulations, the controlled rate will be applicable to most imports and exports, as well as to the reimbursement [reintegro] of debt principal and interest in both the public and private sectors.

The new exchange regulations will replace the two-rate exchange system implemented in September, which established a "preferential" rate equivalent to 50 pesos per dollar and an "ordinary" rate of 70 pesos per dollar.

According to President Miguel de la Madrid's new government, the measures are intended to solve the country's acute financial and economic crisis. Mexico's foreign debt totals $83 billion.

The Central Bank document says that tomorrow the free-market operations will be limited to between $1,000 and $5,000 for both individuals and firms. The document adds that a special exchange rate of 70 pesos per dollar will be maintained for those debts that were contracted before 20 December, in order to avoid business bankruptcies. However, the document also warns that a variation of that rate will be permitted in a much more accelerated fashion than in the case of the controlled rate, so that the differences between the two may eventually be eliminated.

The impact of the peso devaluation on the free market will only be known when the banks begin operations tomorrow, but bankers expect the peso to reach about 130 per dollar, against the current "ordinary" rate of 70.

According to bank sources, the Mexican Government's purpose is to attract the dollars that previously flowed toward the black market or toward U.S. exchange houses on the other side of the border, because they offered better rates.

The Central Bank document admits that free-market operations, which are essentially used by tourism, will be modest initially because of the lack of foreign exchange. It adds that the gold and silver markets will also reopen tomorrow on the basis of the international prices for these two metals and of the exchange rate in the free market.

IDB GRANTS $135 MILLION LOAN FOR INDUSTRY

PA171603 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Dec 82

[Text] The IDB has granted Mexico a new loan for $135 million. The credit is for a term of 15 years at a 10-percent interest rate, and will be used for a program to establish and expand small and medium-sized industries in the country. The resources will be channeled through the guarantee and development fund for small and medium-sized industries, Fogaim.

The total cost of the credit program for the small and medium-sized industries is estimated at $450 million, of which Fogaim will cover 70 percent. The remaining 30 percent will be covered with the IDB loan.

BRIEFS

NEW NAVY APPOINTMENTS -- Mexico, 16 Dec (NOTIMEX) -- The executive branch has made the following appointments: Adm Manuel Hernandez Obregon as general inspector of the navy Adm Raul Alcala Martinez as general director of construction projects and dredging; Adm Alfonso Argudin Alcaraz as deputy general director of the Armed Forces Social Security Institute; Adm Rafael A. Delgado Hernandez as general director of naval construction and repairs; Vice Adm Hector Argudin Estrada as navy chief of staff; Vice Adm Gilberto Lopez Lira as deputy director of the Oceanography Department; Vice Adm Enrique Amado Avila as general director of services; Vice Adm David Zepeda Torres as commander of the 1st Naval Military Zone in Tampico; Vice Adm Carlos Almeida Zamudio as director of Navy Shipyard No. 8 in Salina Cruz, Oaxaca. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0415 GMT 17 Dec 82 FL]

THREE AREA FOREIGN MINISTER TO MEET 8 JANUARY

PA180343 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Fernando Volio, Fidel Chavez and Edgardo Paz Barnica, the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras, will meet in San Jose on 8 January 1983.

The main purpose of this meeting is to analyze the advances made so far with the Forum for Peace and Democracy and to decide on the venue for the forum's next meeting.

According to plans, the forum should meet in February at the latest to continue with its pacification efforts in the Central American and Caribbean area.

COSTA RICA

MONGE PRAISES ASSISTANCE FROM PANAMA'S GUARD

PA182201 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Interview with President Luis Alberto Monge by station correspondent Manuel Santamaria Llamas -- date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] What do you think of the Panamanian Government under President Ricardo de la Espriella and under the true power that backs De la Espriella's government and that falls under the command of General Paredes?

[Answer] I am a personal friend of and have personal affection for President Ricardo do la Espriella. I think that he is leading the Panamanian people's effort for a peaceful and free realization of their desire for improvement and for economic and social development.

The Guard's support for this process and for President Ricardo de la Espriella is admirable. I must say this. When this is said by a Costa Rican political leader, I would imagine that it gains some importance, all modesty aside.

President de la Espriella has been clear and firm in his facilitation and guidance of the process that was set in motion by General Torrijos.

[Question] I believe that the National Guard's participation in the training of Costa Rican police of the achievement to which you have referred: the National Guard's support for President de la Espriella's civilian government. Is that right?

[Answer] That is correct. I would not hesitate to say that we are grateful for the cooperation that the National Guard of Panama is giving us in improving our public force's capability and efficiency.

It is good that you asked this, because those people who want to force terrorism on us, who want to destabilize us, who want to introduce disturbances, are saying that we are militarizing the country. They are seeking to render us increasingly defenseless in the face of terrorism, violence and destabilization.

Panama and the National Guard, accurately interpreting Costa Rica's needs, historic situation and problems, are giving us assistance -- and this has nothing to do with militarization -- in improving our public force's capability and efficiency in the face of a situation that we have not had to deal with before.

The days of rural Costa Rica have vanished because of events, some of a positive nature -- like industrialization and economic development -- and others with a negative impact -- like the efforts to introduce exotic doctrines like terrorism and others, which we must fight to assure that democracy and peace prevail in the republic.

[Question] Why has the Panamanian Government and the training by the National Guard been compared with training that might have been undertaken by the Government of Chile?

[Answer] Those who have been accusing us of militarization are the same ones who are trying to destablize the country. Those who are engaged in an international campaign to discredit Costa Rica's democracy aren't saying that Panama's National Guard is one of the institutions that is helping us to improve the efficiency of our public force. They are saying that it is the Pinochet army. They do this to kill two birds with one stone; that is, they want to prevent us from improving the efficiency of our guard and at the same time to depict us as allied to an army like that of Chile.

ELECTORAL CODE REFORMS APPROVED IN FIRST DEBATE

PA182233 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 10 Dec 82 p 6 a

[Text] In its first debate on the issue yesterday, the Legislative Assembly approved the bill on amending the electoral code, which includes the merger of political parties, changes in prepayment of political debt and a communications system to be used in the future to report the results of elections in communities in which precincts are installed.

The bill gave rise to heated debates at the plenum and led Deputies Juan Jose Trejos (San Jose) and Richard Rodriguez (Alajuela) to resign from the Unity Party and become independents. Both charged that Government and Unity Party deputies had agreed to dubious compromises in exchange for the National Liberation Party [PLN] deputies' votes for this initiative.

Guillermo Malavassi Vargas (National Movement, San Jose) later joined the complaints.

The new piece of legislation includes rules that determine how and when political parties may merge, a subject that is not addressed in the current electoral code. The bill states that one party must act as the recipient of the merger and that those that join it may not engage in independent activities as long as the merger is maintained.

This change will allow the Unity Party to run as a single party in the next election, if it wishes, should other parties decide to join the merger. The recipient party may change its flag if it so desires.

In addition, the bill grants advantages to those that participated in the last elections on all matters related to the prepayment of political debt. For instance, it grants rights to those that obtained at least 5 percent of valid votes cast in the last elections.

It was because of this aspect that the bill was severely criticized. Deputies Trejos and Rodriguez, who were nominated by the faction led by former presidential candidate Rodolfo Mendez Mata, recalled that the Democratic Renewal Party, to which the latter belonged, will not be entitled to the debt payment because neither of the candidates nominated -- Rodriguez and Oscar Aguilar Bulgarelli (San Jose) -- were confirmed by that movement's national meeting for reasons of an internal nature.

During the debate Rodriguez and Trejos insisted that the bill, as submitted, is unfavorable to the minority parties and almost exclusively favors the movement led by Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier. They also criticized the fact that in exchange for its approval, leaders of the Unity Party negotiated support for several bills in which the Monge administration has special interest, including those dealing with loans.

Malavassi Vargas was brief but harsh. In the first debate on the bill yesterday, he said he opposed it not because it facilitates mergers, "but because of its opportunistic and casuistic character, as it establishes a method of distributing the political debt that contradicts the Constitution, or the interpretations made by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) of the respective law."

The congressman described the content of the bill as an arragement by which those in power serve not the interests of the common good but those of the powerful. "Things must be called by their name and this is a dirty trick," he said, after which he left the room.

Rolando Lacle (San Jose) and Bernal Jimenez (San Jose), leaders of the Unity and PLN factions, reacted in defense of their decision and that of other leaders of the two parties.

Lacle said that dialogue is normal in a legislature and that there was nothing to be ashamed about in what had been agreed upon.

Jimenez said there had been no arrangement or pact. He insisted that they had reached an agreement.

A second debate on the bill took place early this morning and its third and last debate will be on Monday.

OFFICIAL DENIES FMLN RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMUNIQUE

PA192001 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] The Costa Rican national security office has said that the Salvadoran revolutionary forces have absolutely nothing to do with a communique issued in San Jose that included death threats against four high-ranking Costa Rican police officials.

Col Francisco Tacsan, director of state security, said the Costa Rican authorities have received reliable information permitting them to establish that the document is false. It had been said that the FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front were responsible for the communique.

We can state, Colonel Tacsan stressed, that the Salvadoran revolutionary organizations have never participated in armed actions, kidnappings and robberies in Costa Rica.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT ALVARO MAGANA ASKS CABINET TO RESIGN

PA180156 Panama City Acan in Spanish 0134 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 17 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana today asked all the members of his cabinet to resign, according to a communique released this afternoon by the Information Secretariat. During a cabinet meeting today, Magana decided to ask his ministers to resign "for the purpose of reorganizing his work cadres," the official note indicated.

The Council of Ministers today voted to create, on Monday, the commission for economic reactivation provided for in the "Apaneca pact," the government platform agreed to by the leading political parties in early August.

HAVANA REPORTS KIDNAPPING OF JOURNALIST, WIFE

PA191910 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Agents of the Salvadoran repressive forces kidnapped journalist Jose Luis Diaz and his wife, Fidela Mones, Salvadoran social organizations have reported.

The Association of Foreign Correspondents in Mexico immediately demanded that the Salvadoran regime respect the safety and lives of Jose Luis Diaz and his wife and that they be released.

Radio Venceremos, voice of the FMLN, reported that FMLN guerrillas have occupied the town of Guatajiagua in Morazan Department where they inflicted 3 casualties on the army, captured 3 prisoners and seized 26 rifles. The radio station denied military reports that the Radio Venceremos relay station located on the Guazapa Volcano had been destroyed during the recent army offensive in that area.

ARMY SEIZES FMLN WEAPONS, DESTROYS RELAY STATION

PA171717 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1622 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 17 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Military reports indicate that in the last few hours the Slavadoran Army has confiscated a large amount of materiel from the guerrillas in La Union Department and destroyed the relay station of a rebel radio on Guazapa hill, north of San Salvador. The weapons were confiscated on El Zompopero beach in eastern El Salvador during an operation by the 6th Infantry Brigade to find guerrilla redoubts.

The materiel was found in a warehouse that contained 10,800 cartridges for Fal rifles, 6,300 cartridges for M-1 carbines, 420 M-60 machineguns, 20 rounds for 60-mm mortars and 11 rounds for RPG-2 grenade launchers, known as "Chinese sticks." According to military sources, this was the most important confiscation in recent months.

It was also reported that the Ramon Belloso counterinsurgency battalion destroyed a relay station of a clandestine radio during the operations that the armed forces are carrying out on Guazapa hill, some 30 km north of San Salvador. Radio Venceremos, official voice of the FMLN, has not transmitted on FM since Tuesday, the day military operations began on Guazapa hill.

Military reports indicated that military operations on Guazapa are achieving good results, since the Ramon Belloso Battalion has been able to advance at night towards rebel positions with the support of light and heavy artillery.

The official sources have not reported the number of troops participating in the various operations, but residents of the Guazapa area have said there are about 1,500 soldiers in that sector. The army operation on Guazapa Volcano consists of a military encirclement which includes the towns of Suchitoto, Aguilares, Guazapa, Nejapa, San Jose Guayabal and Tonacatepeque with the participation of heavy artillery and the air force.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS GUAZAPA, OTHER FIGHTING

FMLN October Campaign Report

PA180434 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 16 Dec 82

[Text] After 2 months of uninterrupted fighting, the Heroes and Martyrs of October 1979-1980 national military campaign has confirmed with its great victories that the Salvadoran people have been able to build a powerful revolutionary army capable of achieving a military victory over the ultraright forces currently in power. The coordinated actions of the FMLN forces during this campaign have achieved, among other victories, the strategic annihilation of enemy forces; destabilization of the dictatorship's war economy, including sabotage and control of roads; and successful harassment ambushes, as well as the near annihilation of enemy forces during deployment. The achievements have brought the national army close to disaster and have caused a definite breakdown in the morale of its forces.

Garcia's and D'Aubuisson's criminal clique have viewed with despair how the FMLN has been able to militarily operate throughout most of the country, taking enemy positions, forcing them to give up other positions, dispersing and annihilating whole companies while in movement, recovering weapons and taking prisoners of war as well as almost paralyzing the most important land routes while constantly sabotaging energy and communications facilities, as well as sabotaging the production that is vital for the support of the war economy.

These actions dispersed the enemy forces, forced them to abandon positions and decreased their ability to reinforce their troops to such an extent that General Garcia was forced to abandon, as he has been doing up to now, northern areas of the departments of Chalatenango, San Miguel, Morazan and La Union. By so doing, the regime has lost control of hundreds of square kilometers bordering on Honduras.

The subdued and defensive attitude taken by the corrupt military high command has allowed our forces to work quickly and has given our forces a chance to rest. It has also given this campaign a new element of continuity and forcefulness. Despite all this, the FMLN has not yet displayed its full strategic offensive capacity.

The elite battalions, the dictatorship's offensive battalions, have become battalions in need of quick aid due to our revolutionary army's victorious activities. They have become battalions on the defensive, running from one place to another, tiring themselves out, and, we repeat, they now have a defensive attitude because the military initiative is now in the hands of the people. This has been one of the most important results of this military campaign that began on 10 October. To all this we have to add the FMLN capacity to carry out special operations behand enemy lines, such as the attack on the refinery at Acajutla. Special mention must be made of the incursion in the city of Suchitoto, only a few kilometers from the capital of the country.

Another important element of this campaign has been the broadening of the theaters of operations, as in the case of the northern areas of San Miguel and La Union, where towns that had never experienced the presence of guerrilla forces were occupied. Here the guerrilla forces were greeted with joy, and the FMLN political meetings turned into real celebrations for the people despite the fascist propaganda that has tried to tell the people that the guerrillas occupy towns to rape, steal and kill.

General Garcia has added to his ability to plan strategies for defeat, including the supply of weapons and ammunition to the guerrillas. This is the outcome of the demoralization of his forces, who each day become more aware of the fact that they are being lead to their deaths for an unjust and foreign cause. This fact has allowed the FMLN to arm itself better each day and better use the weapons of high destructive power that it has recovered from the national army, as in the case of the light artillery that has already been put in use against enemy forces. The most recent supply of weapons to the FMLN made by General Garcia included, among other weapons, two powerful 120-mm mortars capable of destroying any enemy headquarters.

The Salvadoran people have managed to build an army that truly defends its interest, an army that at the same time has a clear prospect of winning the war against its oppressors. The national army already proved this when it came face to face with our forces in combat all over the country. This reality is taking the army to a breakdown in morale and to defeat. Otherwise, how could you explain the fact that during every clash soldier after soldier surrenders, to the extent that there are more soldiers putting down their weapons than there are dead and wounded? The desertion rate is high and it will get higher. It is more and more difficult for the regime to carry out its forced recruitment, to force young Salvadorans to fight against their own people.

The humane treatment that the FMLN gives its prisoners, handing them over to the International Red Cross, has demonstrated to the Salvadoran officers and soldiers that the high command lies to them when it tells them about guerrillas who torture and kill their prisoners.

The military campaign that began on 10 October is only a sample of the capacity achieved by our people in arms. The upcoming battles will mean new and greater steps toward final victory, a victory that our people have been winning with much sacrifice, effort and revolutionary idealism, confronting weapons and advisers supplied by the U.S. empire, which has delayed the popular triumph but has not stopped it and will not be able to stop it.

We are marching toward victory. If Sandino could expel the Yankee Marines from Central America with only a handful of poorly armed peasants, what won't this Salvadoran people be able to do today, now that it has built the most powerful guerrilla army in the history of the Latin American peoples struggling for their national liberation?

Joining the revolutionary militia, joining the revolutionary army, participating in any revolutionary task is the path that all Salvadorans must take at this hour when the end of the executioner is near. This is the time for all of us to push together, together with the FMLN forces, at a time when our people advance and the enemy retreats.

Guazapa Resistance

PA181602 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] In Guazapa [words indistinct], our revolutionary forces have been facing an operation launched by the forces of the dictatorship on Monday afternoon, 13 December. On that day, enemy army units approached our positions along Nueva Street, at a point known as El Chorizo, where the first battles ensued.

The next day, 14 December, at dawn, the enemy used two battalions, the Ramon Belloso Battalion and another from Sensuntepeque, and the Tigre unit composed of elements from the repressive corps, to attack our positions along the eastern part of our front which includes Nueva Street. Intense fighting ensued in El Chorizo, Estanzuelas and Aguacayo.

The enemy infantry attack was preceded by indiscriminate mortar, bombing and strafing attacks on our positions and on concentrations of defenseless civilians.

The enemy is intensively using support weapons in its infantry operations. Each unit has 60-mm mortars and 90-mm cannons as well as 30-mm and M-60 light machineguns. It is also using .50-cal machineguns and M-79 grenade launchers.

The report that has just arrived from Guazapa adds that on the evening of 14 December, while FMLN forces were fighting hard against the special battalions' infantry at some points, artillery units of our revolutionary army were attacking enemy positions at other points. In these attacks our forces used 81-mm mortars that we had seized from the army in previous operations.

The fighting continued through 15 December. The FMLN forces have resisted all the enemy's artillery and air attacks. Although the enemy has [words indistinct] the bombing of the areas close to our front in the Guadalupe sector in the east and El Paisnal in the west, the fighting has continued. On the evening of 16 December the enemy was forced to stop advancing on our front in Guazapa despite its exaggerated use of support and artillery weapons and infantry and air forces. The dictatorship has not been able to advance since our forces have demonstrated their high combat morale and their great maneuvering capacity acquired during this just revolutionary war against the criminal forces of the dictatorship and Yankee imperialism.

In future broadcasts we will give further details on everything that is happening in Guazapa where the FMLN forces will stoutly defeat this enemy operation as we have defeated many other operations in the past.

Forward, companeros in Guazapa! The enemy will retreat there also!

Zacatecoluca Attack

PA181815 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Official bulletin from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front, no date given -- read by announcer]

[Text] At 1300 on 11 December, FMLN forces staged an attack north of the city of Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department. The FMLN attacked enemy positions at the Santa Lucia coffee processing plant, 4 km north of Zacatecoluca. There were 25 enemy soldiers at the plant. The enemy sent reinforcements to the post. At 0300, our forces ambushed the reinforcements near the city of Zacatecoluca.

Other enemy positions were also attacked. We sabotaged the power supply to all of La Paz Department.

Here are the results of these actions: At the Santa Lucia coffee processing plant, our forces recovered five M-16 rifles and a TCR-77 radio. Our forces recovered 15 M-16 rifles, an M-60 machinegun, and another TCR-77 military radio during the ambush. The total weapons recovered: 20 M-16 rifles, an M-60 machinegun, two military communication radios, ammunition and other war materiel.

The enemy had approximately 30 casualties, including a lieutenant, (Carlos Ernesto Parada). We captured two prisoners of war, a sergeant and an enlisted man.

On our side, we have to report the heroic death of three fighting companeros: (David), (Americo) and (Jaime).

This information has been sent by Commander (Douglas) of the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front.

Transmitter Operational

PA181710 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Message to Salvadoran people from Commander Ana Sonia Medina, Commander Mariana, from Guazapa, no date given -- read by announcer]

[Text] We inform our people that the genocidal high command is shamelessly lying when it claims to have destroyed a Radio Venceremos FM relay station on Guazapa Hill.

Since the enemy's military operation against our positions in Guazapa hill failed, the enemy has tried to credit itself with a fictitious victory. We report to the people of San Salvador and its surrounding area that this Saturday, at 2030, Radio Venceremos will be broadcasting on FM, on [number indistinct] megahertz, thus exposing another of General Garcia's lies.

We are used to the inventions and [words indistinct]. Exactly 1 year ago, around this same date, General Garcia told the world [words indistinct] that the national army had destroyed Radio Venceremos in Morazan and that the army had even arrested some Venceremos personnel.

Now, a year after the criminals invented that fable, General Garcia is trying to make the Salvadoran people believe that it has [words indistinct] our radio station in Guazapa.

Our intelligence services have told us that one of the objectives of the operation launched against Guazapa hill was to destroy our FM transmitter, but again General Garcia's desires have been left unsatisfied. General Garcia and his genocidal gang (?had prepared) a party to announce the destruction of the Radio Venceremos FM transmitter, but the general of defeats will again remain unsatisfied in his desire to silence our vanguard's radio station.

We invite the people of San Salvador and surrounding areas to listen to Radio Venceremos' FM frequency this Saturday at 2030.

The heroic people in arms, the people's combat, have again defeated another maneuver of General Garcia; he has been left waiting again.

Casualties, Seized Materiel

PA191700 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1400 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] We have the results of FMLN military actions since 10 October: There were 1,148 enemy casualties, including dead and wounded. We captured 278 soldiers of the dictatorship.

In these clashes we recovered 319 M-16 rifles, 177 G-3 rifles, 78 Czech rifles, 27 carbines, 7 Garand [M-1] rifles, 5 .22-cal rifles, 2 Fal rifles, 2 Madsen submachineguns and 1 Mauser rifle for a total of 628 rifles seized from General Garcia's troops.

We seized the following support weapons: 14 M-79 grenade launchers, 6 M-60 machineguns, 2 .50-cal machineguns, 2 60-mm mortars, 4 61-mm mortars, 2 120-mm mortars and 3 90-mm cannons for a total of 33 support weapons.

This ammunition was recovered from the dictatorship: 148,228 cartridges of various calibers and 493 shells for the support weapons.

Our people advance, the enemy retreats!

GUATEMALA

RIOS MONTT ON ECONOMIC SITUATION, CIVIL GUARD

PA180029 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] President Efrain Rios Montt today announced that the reorganization of his cabinet and of the middle-level public administration cadres will be very slight. The ministers of state and other high-ranking officers resigned in the past few days to give the president the freedom to replace those he believed should be replaced. However, tonight the president said that most of the officers who resigned will be reappointed to their former positions.

General Rios Montt also spoke of his recent meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Honduras. He said that at that time Reagan did not offer aid to Guatemala.

Changing subjects once again, Rios Montt announced the upcoming creation of a civil guard in Guatemala.

[Begin recording] [Rios Montt] We are going to do a cleaning job in all the institutions, and we are going to combine a select group into something that will be called the Civil Guard. Some institutions will disappear. This is some early Christmas news.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Besides this, there are many institutions that have to be decentralized so they can provide better service.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] That is up to private initiative. However, we will try to [words indistinct].

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The Civil Guard will be responsible for customs and for guaranteeing safety on the roads, and it will also be responsible for offering [words indistinct]. I don't have a crystal ball. To answer that you would need a crystal ball. What is of importance is that for the time being the quetzal has not been devalued. For the time being we have beans, corn, chili and coffee. For the time being, because of the crops we have work, and the quetzal is still worth a quetzal. Therefore, I believe that success is not so much in saving as in retaining. [as heard]

This morning, I said that Guatemala was headed for a fall, and that thanks to 23 March we were able to hold on to that last branch before hitting bottom, and we are still holding on. I believe that if we can keep this up we can have a good economy. We are not dead. You may recall -- maybe you can't because news does not always stick to the truth -- that there is a country where not much fuel is sold. There are days when no fuel is sold. On Sunday there is no sale of fuel unless it is done with a military order, and they are not under martial law. In another country, if you want a highball you can have it but you have to pay with dollars. We are still selling fuel and getting paid with colones and lempiras; therefore, our economic situation is manageable. I believe the critical moment has been overcome. If we had not had a 23 March, our quetzal would be worth ten times less. [end recording]

Extends State of Siege

PA191936 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Gen Efrain Rios Montt, head of the Guatemalan regime, has reiterated that the state of siege, established 9 months ago, will be maintained in effect in the country. At the same time, Rios Montt announced the creation of a new repressive body which will be called the Civil Guard and will be under the orders of the Interior Ministry.

REPORTAGE ON KIDNAPPING OF SUAZO'S DAUGHTER

Rios Montt Comments

PA171353 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1251 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 17 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt has commented on the kidnapping of Honduran President Suazo's daughter. Rios Montt said that his government has never negotiated with anyone but that "no negotiations does not mean no compromise." The Honduran president's daughter was kidnapped in this capital.

During a news conference yesterday afternoon the Guatemalan president said that Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova has not asked him for "anything" and has absolved him of any responsibility in the kidnapping, which took place last Tuesday.

The Guatemalan president also said he has not met with Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, or with Ivan Romero, Honduran ambassador to Switzerland, both members of the delegation sent by Suazo Cordova to Guatemala to deal with the case.

Rios Montt said that the government cannot yield to demands made by terrorist organizations and said the high level political struggle "has cost many lives."

Rios Montt said that Xiomara Suazo, "a young Guatemalan lady, will receive the same treatment as my nephew (who was released last month after having been kidnapped for 40 days) and as the son of the interior minister (who was released in August after having been held for 2 months)."

Government Will Not Negotiate

PA180415 Paris AFP in Spanish 0401 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Dec (AFP) -- It was officially reported that the Guatemalan Government has decided not to negotiate with the kidnappers of the daughter of Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova. However, tonight it authorized the family to pay for an advertisement and to negotiate with the guerrillas.

The decision of the Guatemalan Government, headed by Gen Efrain Rios Montt, was announced during the newscasts of two television stations and was received with surprise among the people, since they had expected the government to accept the guerrillas' request.

Dr Xiomara Suazo's kidnappers gave as their "only condition" the publishing of a political manifesto in Central America and Mexico; otherwise, they threatened to kill her. They gave a deadline of 2200 tonight for the government to give a positive reply to their demands.

When announcing its decision, the government also issued a call to international human rights organizations to "pressure" the kidnappers and request the freedom of the doctor, who is a Guatemalan citizen.

Kidnapping Unresolved

PA192336 Paris AFP in Spanish 2229 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Dec (AFP) -- Almost 48 hours after the Guatemalan Government refused to negotiate with the kidnappers of Xiomara Suazo, Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova's daughter, the position of the guerrilla group that kidnapped her remains a mystery, though her family was asked for proof that she is still alive.

Sources close to the family said they have not yet made contact with the kidnappers and that it is not known whether they agree that the negotiations can be carried out by the Suazo family and not by the Guatemalan Government, as they had initially demanded.

The government allowed the family to initiate negotiations with the guerrillas, who have identified themselves only with the initials CPD, and announced that it would support any negotiations leading to the release of Xiomara Suazo, a Guatemalan citizen.

The family asked for proof that Xiomara is alive and healthy and that the guerrillas forward the political manifesto that they want published as a condition for her release.

The kidnappers established the publication of the document in all Central American countries and Mexico as their "sole objective." Observers believe that the manifesto deals with a regional problem, possibly the Honduran-Nicaraguan crisis.

While the negotiations are suspended, the security forces have set up special operations at all entry points to the capital, possibly in search for the hostage.

This Saturday there were rumors that Xiomara Suazo had been rescued "safe and sound" by the Guatemalan authorities, but they turned out to be just that, rumors, although it was learned that searches were conducted in different parts of the city.

Last Friday night the government stated its position: It would not negotiate with the terrorists, "but would defeat them on the battlefield." It also appealed to international human rights organizations to ask the kidnappers to respect the hostage's life.

GUERRILLAS BURN BUS IN CAPITAL, AIR MESSAGE

PA180108 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1720 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- At dawn today, Guatemalan guerrillas burned another bus of the urban transportation system in this city's southern sector and momentarily interfered with the broadcasts of a radio station, the police reported.

The guerrillas have already destroyed five buses in Guatemala City this week to protest the government's decision to double bus fare from 5 to 10 centavos beginning Thursday.

The police said the interference with the station was the work of the clandestine Armed People's Revolutionary Organization (ORPA). Two women ORPA members aired a strong antigovernment message over the station.

GUERRILLA PERIODICAL REPORTS LATEST ACTIONS

PA191513 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] According to the most recent issue of EL INFORMADOR GUERRILLERO, the press organ of Guatemala's insurgent forces, combatants of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity inflicted 42 casualties on the army in actions carried out in seven of the country's departments. This source states that the guerrillas carried out 39 military operations in Huehuetenango, El Quiche and San Marcos Departments and in Guatemala City.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA REPLIES TO NICARAGUAN PROTEST

PA181609 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Government press communique issued on 17 December -- read by announcer]

[Text] On this date in reply to the rash charges by the Nicaraguan Government, the Honduran Government, through the Foreign Secretariat, has addressed the Nicaraguan foreign minister in the following terms:

Official note No (?115dsl), Tegucigalpa, 17 December 1982

Mr Minister: Although Your Excellency is on the verge of losing your patience, I have the duty to reply to your message yesterday referring to the battles waged between the Sandinist Peoples Army and the so-called Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary forces. All of these battles were waged on Nicaraguan territory.

Once again, and without any impatience, my government rejects the charges that those insurgent forces are operating from Honduras. The simple examination of a map of the regions that Your Excellency indicates as theaters of operations is enough to prove that they are located several kilometers from the border and entirely on Nicaraguan territory.

This makes the Nicaraguan Government's assertions groundless and capricious.

Once again I state that there are no Somozist counterrevolutionary forces on El Aguila Hill or any other point in Honduras.

The Nicaraguan Government seems determined to extend the conflict to the other countries of Central America; therefore, the Nicaraguan Government will be responsible for the consequences.

Mr Minister, accept my highest regards,

[Signed] Edgardo Paz Barnica, foreign secretary

PAZ BARNICA: NICARAGUA WANTS CLIMATE OF DISCORD

PA171522 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Interview with Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica by (Gustavo Rubi) and (Danilo Antunez), date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] What is your opinion of Costa Rica's position on the problem with Nicaragua?

[Answer] Whenever critical circumstances occur, we all want the situation to be normalized as soon as possible. I think that the Costa Rican Government is very honest and is justified in strongly rejecting the Nicaraguan Government's charges against the Costa Rican Government, specifically against a democrat like President Luis Alberto Monge. As for the relations between Honduras and Nicaragua, we are interested in maintaining normal and cordial relations. As you well know, I went to Managua last month, when the news conference that I held there for some 50 local and foreign newsmen was completely censored. On that occasion I met with Junta Coordinator Commander Daniel Ortega and with a number of Foreign Ministry officials to show that we are interested in dialogue, as we have always been and will continue to be. I think relations between Honduras and Nicaragua are not as normal as we might wish, due to the Nicaraguan Government's stand, which is characterized by intransigence and constant groundless accusations. Even so, I don't think that our relations have reached a decisive or grave point. However, analyzing the situation from an equitable standpoint, it does seem to me that Nicaragua's domestic conflict is becoming increasingly serious. Addressing a political rally last Saturday in the Plaza of the Revolution, Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega himself made remarks that easily suggest Nicaragua is currently faced with a very serious domestic conflict.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, are there any plans for another meeting soon with your Nicaraguan counterpart?

[Answer] Nothing of the sort has been planned so far. Furthermore, during my visit to Nicaragua I met with Commander Daniel Ortega and proposed to him that a military chiefs meeting be held, more specifically a meeting at the level of naval chiefs. The meeting would seek to prevent incidents in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and to implement some mechanism, like placing buoys along a special zone near Parallel 15, in order to keep each country's ships from entering the territorial waters of the other. The Honduran Government is willing to attend such a meeting. I told Commander Daniel Ortega: Set a date and choose a place for a meeting of military chiefs. Commander Ortega has not even answered that request.

That shows who is interested in maintaining a climate of discord as well as who is interested in maintaining a climate of understanding and in seeking gradual solutions to the regional problems within an overall and regional context that would include the discussion of bilateral, multilateral and domestic problems.

NICARAGUA

D'ESCOTO PROTESTS BORDER INCURSIONS TO HONDURAS

PA171736 Paris AFP in Spanish 1537 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Managua, 17 Dec (AFP) -- Heavy fighting between counterrevolutionary insurgents and Sandinist army troops took place last night in Nueva Segovia Department, on the border with Honduras 350 km north of Managua, it was officially announced today.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto sent a protest note to his Honduran counterpart last night denouncing -- "at the very limit of losing our patience" -- the border incidents of the last few days.

According to the message, yesterday afternoon, Thursday, a counterrevolutionary band of some 150 armed men entered Nicaragua from Honduras, through Macuelizo, in Nueva Segovia. According to D'Escoto, the Sandinist army began fighting the invaders at 1440 local time and was still fighting at 2100, when the note sent to Foreign Secretary Paz Barnica was drafted. During the heavy fighting D'Escoto went on, the insurgents used 60-mm mortars, M-79 grenade launchers and Fal rifles.

The note states that some 450 Somozist counterrevolutionaries are still concentrated in Cerro del Aguila, in Honduran territory, "despite the fact that this has been repeatedly denounced and noted to the Honduran Government."

The document reviews other incidents taking place since last week and intensifying since Monday when, according to D'Escoto, more than 400 counterrevolutionary elements who had also come from Honduras entered an area in Nueva Segovia and engaged in combat with Nicaraguan troops. According to the foreign minister, yesterday, Thursday, these attackers were repelled and they withdrew toward the border. The rest of them returned to Honduras, from where they were still harassing Nicaraguan territory last night.

D'ESCOTO REJECTS HONDURAN NOTES, REPEATS CHARGES

PA172138 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Ministry has reiterated its charge that important sectors of the Honduran Government and Army are accomplices in the attacks by counter-revolutionary elements against our country.

Miguel D'Escoto Brockman rejected two notes from Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, in which Paz Barnica persists in denying facts that are indisputably evident. D'Escoto said it is logical for individuals identified with Somozism and the U.S. interventionist policy to have left Nicaragua in search of refuge in countries with political systems akin to those for which they long.

In a strange document [as heard] made public last night, D'Escoto ridiculed Paz Barnica's contention that an internal struggle is being waged in Nicaragua.

Such an internal struggle would not be possible if those elements remained permanently in Nicaragua and were prevented from using Honduran territory as a sanctuary and a base of operations and for logistical support, D'Escoto stressed. He added that were it not for the complicity of important sectors of the Honduran Army and Government, the criminal incursions against our country would not take place.

The Nicaraguan foreign minister quoted reports by NEWSWEEK magazine, THE NEW WORK TIMES and the WASHINGTON POST, which prove the counterrevolutionary activity against Nicaragua originates in Honduras.

MINISTRY REPLACES ENVOYS TO U.S., OTHER COUNTRIES

PA181919 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry announced several changes in the diplomatic service this morning. These changes include the appointments of new representatives in El Salvador, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United States, Ecuador and Algeria. The officials who will be replaced include Franscisco Fiallos Navarro, Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington, and Gonzalo Murillo, ambassador to Belgium.

USSR GRANTS $55-MILLION CREDIT FOR MACHINERY

PA180011 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] The Soviet Union recently granted to Nicaragua a $55-million credit for the purchase of agricultural, construction, drilling and transportation machinery, it was officially announced today. The agreement was signed by Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Bernardo Chamorro. It forms part of a $100-million agreement signed in May by the Foreign Trade Ministries of the Soviet Union and Nicaragua during the visit to Moscow by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

STATE COUNCIL ASKS SUPPORT AGAINST AGGRESSION

PA170405 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Dec 82

[State Council Message to world parliaments and organizations, issued in Managua on 10 December -- read by announcer]

[Text] The State Council of the Republic of Nicaragua addresses all parliaments of the world; the national and international community; democratic parties, trade unions and social organizations; and social and humanitarian societies and institutions concerned with peace and mankind's fate to denounce the policy of aggression and the wanton crimes against Nicaragua.

In a statement issued barely 2 months ago, we said that the counterrevolution attacks defenseless objectives. Now, as a result of the genocidal acts of those criminal bands supported by the forces of foreign countries, we must repeat the same phrase, laden with misfortune and deep sorrow.

On Thursday 9 December, a Sandinist air force helicopter that was on a mission to evacuate the civilian population of San Andres de Bocay, Hamaca and other places in Jinotega Department, plunged into a ravine and caught fire while passing over Ayapal, an area of counterrevolutionary activities. Another helicopter that went to its rescue was machinegunned by members of the Somozist groups that raid the area from Honduras.

The result of the first incident was the death of 75 Nicaraguan children. Their only crime was to be evacuated together with their families to safer places, so they could be better protected against the forays of the murderers of our people while the Sandinist armed forces carry out operations to protect our peasant brothers in that area near the Honduran border.

In view of this tragic event, which today fills Nicaragua with sorrow and indignation, the State Council most strongly denounces before national and international public opinion the taking of these innocent lives. It particularly denounces and accuses the administration of incumbent U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who has openly provided the training, organization and open and covert financing for this deadly force, in complicity with sectors of the Honduran Army who support and protect the former Somozist guardsmen, the main perpetrators of these acts.

We likewise urge the world's parliaments and congresses, and most particularly the Honduran Legislative Assembly and the U.S. Congress, to play an active role in preserving peace in the region by demanding the dismantling of the counterrevolutionary camps in Honduran territory and an immediate end to all of these cowardly aggressions against our country.

Notwithstanding these cowardly crimes, we reiterate to the Honduran Legislative Assembly, the U.S. Congress and the parliaments and congresses of the world our advocacy of dialogue and peace as essential elements to achieve detente in Central America. To the mothers, fathers and other relatives of these 75 child martyrs, we say that today, more than ever, the State Council, which represents all sectors of our people, shares with them the sorrow that is felt throughout Nicaragua. We shall draw more strength from this sorrow to defend this revolution with all the means within our reach and to defeat once and for all the cowardly former Somozist guardsmen who, with protection from foreign forces, continue murdering the most beloved sons of our people, and on this occasion have killed children, who are our most cherished possession, the favorites of the revolution and our fatherland's brilliant future.

[Signed] Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the State Council of the Republic of Nicaragua

ARCE CHARGES ATTACK BY 2,000 FORMER GUARDSMEN

PA192030 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2017 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Managua, 19 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The FSLN National Directorate said today that more than 2,000 anti-Sandinists are currently attacking Nicaragua.

Speaking on behalf of the nine National Directorate commanders, Commander Bayardo Arce, FSLN Political Committee coordinator, said that the more than 2,000 former Somozist guardsmen who are now attacking Nicaraguan positions are a part of the 5,000 bearing arms in Honduran territory.

Speaking to thousands of Sandinist young people on the Ruben Dario University campus in Managua, Arce said that "the counterrevolutionaries" are carrying out incursions into Nicaraguan territory on a daily basis, "with the complicity of the Honduran Army." Arce described the bands' attacks as "a growing and silent war that, although undeclared, has produced victims like the martyred children of Ayapal." The Sandinist leader was referring to the 75 children who died on 9 December when a helicopter crashed in northern Nicaragua.

The reasons for the crash are still under investigation in Nicaragua.

Arce said that four Nicaraguan Army soldiers died in a battle on Friday in the region of Aguas Calientes, deep in the mountains of northern Nicaragua. The Sandinist leader also indicated that "several dozen counterrevolutionaries" died in that battle.

According to Arce, there are currently no indications that "U.S. imperialism" will yield in the face of the worldwide demands for peace in Central America.

He indicated that the results of the latest battles in northern Nicaragua "must remind us that, although we continue to desire and to work for peace, the revolutionary war has not ended." He added that although the Sandinist victory of 19 July 1979 "won us an overwhelmingly better position for the people's struggle, the war to eradicate exploitation and to establish a stable society in peace and with constant progress will take us years of struggle." Nevertheless, he said that "we must be confident that the definitive triumph can only be achieved by the Sandinist people."

AUTHORITIES ARREST 18 'RIGHTIST GUERRILLAS'

PA180019 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2340 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Managua, 17 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- An Interior Ministry official said today that a group of rightist guerrillas struggling to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government was arrested by the authorities in the eastern sector of the country. The official told the press that the group was recently captured in the town of Juigalpa, Chontales Department, approximately 150 km east of Managua, and that a large amount of weapons, including explosives, was found.

He added that among those arrested was a reporter for the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA. According to the information, the other members of the group had ties with the Nicaraguan Democratic Front, an organization that represents the rightists who are stationed in Honduras. For some time now, Nicaragua has been accusing Honduras and the United States of supplying weapons and training the rightist guerrillas in Honduras to overthrow the leftist Managua government.

Security Official Comments

PA180412 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] State Security was able to dismantle three counterrevolutionary cells that operated in Chontales Department, which included members of the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Front. This information was supplied by Deputy Commander Fernando Caldera, responsible for the 5th Military Region, during a news conference at the Interior Ministry offices.

During the operations to dismantle the counterrevolutionary groups, 18 enemies of the people were captured. For several weeks these persons had been carrying out attacks, robberies and rapes. It was also said that one of the plans these men had was to occupy Radio Revolucion and broadcast a proclamation. During the arrest of the 18 enemies of the people, weapons and ammunition were recovered and other plans to destabilize the economy of our nation were aborted.

Meanwhile, Lt Fidel Gallardo, State Security chief of operations for the 5th Military Region, said that a new blow against the counterrevolutionary bands that want to destabilize our revolutionary process had been accomplished by State Security companeros in Chontales Department.

He said this during a news conference at the Interior Ministry offices. Following are excerpts of his statement regarding the enemy's plans:

[Begin recording] The main plans that we aborted at the time of their arrest included the sabotage they had planned against the (Rigoberto Lopez Perez) rice mill in the Secoluteca area. Also, at the time these men were arrested they had another plan to occupy several militia positions located near Secoluteca -- which are part of the first trenches that our people have for their defense -- in order to arm their members, recover weapons and recruit persons to cooperate with them. They would then have formed groups to operate separately along the borders of Chontales and Boaco Departments. This is all regarding the counterrevolutionary group of the Sandinist Anticommunist People's Army. [Ejercito Sandinista Popular Anticomunista] In Juigalpa, in September, we began receiving information regarding the activities of Mr Pedro Rafael Garcia, the LA PRENSA reporter in Juigalpa, who led small groups of people who are against the revolution in forming what they called the Jorge Salazar Anticommunist Movement [Movimiento Anti-comunista Jorge Salazar]. [end recording]

In conclusion, Lt Fidel Gallardo said that the dismantling of the three counterrevolutionary bands operating in Chontales Department had put an end to the plans that they wanted to carry out to sow terror among the poor residents of the area.

DANIEL ORTEGA ON RELATIONS WITH U.S., HONDURAS

PA171740 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Dec 82 p 5

[Text] In an interview published yesterday by the Mexican newspaper EL DIA, Commander Daniel Ortega expressed his conviction that Reagan's aggressive policy is making him lose political maneuvering room in the United States.

He warned that the propaganda campaign on a reported Central American detente these past weeks in truth hides opposite actions. He said that while Honduran Foreign Minister Paz Barnica recently expressed his willingness to control former Somozist guards in Honduran territory, a Nicaraguan consul in Honduras was captured, beaten and threatened with death. Ortega pointed out that this is not a problem between the two countries, but one of the United States against the Sandinist revolution, in which Honduras is merely an instrument.

Referring to the economic problems in Nicaragua, which he said are caused by the constant aggressions as well as natural disasters and the international crisis, the coordinator of the Government Junta of National Reconstruction predicted that 1983 will be a difficult year for the whole region. "We are involved in a world crisis in which countries like ours usually pay," Ortega affirmed in his interview with EL DIA. This makes us more vulnerable to U.S. pressure.

He once more supported a joint struggle to achieve a postponement of the foreign debt, and the bases for a new international economic order.

Lastly, he expressed gratitude for the efforts of former Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, who "assumed with great responsibility the task of promoting and seeking formulas for peace in the region."

TOMAS BORGE REJECTS HONDURAN COMMUNIQUE

PA191846 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge described a recent Honduran Foreign Secretariat communique that accused the Sandinist government of being responsible for Nicaragua's domestic problems as a perfect expression of cynicism, shamelessness, irresponsibility and lies. In the same note, the Foreign Secretariat of the Honduran regime argues that the situation of conflict on the border between the two countries is a result of the domestic struggle among Nicaraguans and that the Honduran Government and Army have no part in this struggle.

The Honduran rulers, Borge said, pretend to be the victims while the counter-revolutionary bands that come from their territory kill peasants and workers, set fires and commit sabotage, outrages, rapes and the most horrible crimes in Nicaragua. Those philosphers of lies and shamelessness, Tomas Borge added, pose as victims while we Nicaraguans pay the high price of the death of 75 Miskito children.

ENVOY TO MEXICO ON CRASH, SOMOZIST AGGRESSIONS

PA181720 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Mauricio Cuadra, Nicaraguan ambassador to Mexico, has stated in Mexico City that some six or seven Nicaraguan citizens die every day as a result of border aggressions by the former Somozist guardsmen. The diplomat blames these counter-revolutionary forces for the attack that caused a helicopter to crash a few days ago, resulting in the death of 75 children and 9 women who were being evacuated in the aircraft.

Cuadra added that in the past 2 years there have been 232 border attacks, infiltrations, ambushes on Sandinist patrols and other Somozist actions that have claimed the lives of 499 Nicaraguan citizens.

The Nicaraguan ambassador charged that Honduras is already openly acting as Washington's gendarme in Central America. Furthermore, he charged that Honduras is using weapons supplied by the United States and Israel for this purpose.

Mauricio Cuadra stressed that despite the aggressions and the latent danger of an outside invasion, the Sandinist government is maintaining the political opening, and submitting the parties bill for discussion as well as designing an electoral legislation and continuing a dialogue with the opposition.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Managua that bands of former Somozist guardsmen who attempted to occupy the Nicaraguan village of Jalapa, Nueva Segovia Department, are trying to break the siege laid by the Popular Sandinist Army and return to their camps in Honduras.

CUBAN, LIBYAN LEADERS SEND CONDOLENCES

Fidel Castro Message

PA181416 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Dec 82 p 1

[Condolence message from Cuban President Fidel Castro, dated Havana, 11 December 1982]

[Text] Dear comrades of the National Directorate of the FSLN of Nicaragua:

I have learned with deep sorrow the news about the tragic death of 75 Nicaraguan children while they were being evacuated from the border zone with Honduras, a zone which is constantly harassed by counterrevolutionary bands.

The wasted lives of these children, who were the hope of the new Nicaragua, falls on the consciences of those who are to blame for the siege that heroic and proud people are experiencing today.

This blood further proves the infamy of the imperialist U.S. Government, which leads, organizes and finances the entire criminal plan presently underway in an attempt to destroy the Sandinist revolution. This blood indelibly stains its miserable accomplices in Honduras and other countries.

Now more than ever, I am convinced that this pain will turn into energy, courage and decision to defend at any cost the just and dignified Nicaraguan cause.

I beg you, dear comrades, to convey to the victims' relatives and all the people of Nicaragua, my sympathy and deep solidarity. All the people of Cuba are with you in these moments of sorrow.

Fraternally,

[Signed] Fidel Castro Ruz

Al-Qadhdhafi Message

PA170433 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Dec 82 p 3

[Condolence message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, no date given]

[Text] Brothers and members of the FSLN National Directorate, Managua, Nicaragua:

We have heard with deep grief and consternation the news of the barbaric aggression perpetrated against a helciopter by a criminal band that is a product and instrument of U.S. imperialism, an aggression in which innocent children were the victims.

We forcefully condemn and repudiate this criminal aggression that is part of the chain of inhuman and terrorist actions promoted and carried out by imperialism and its allies against the peoples who are striving and struggling to free themselves from all kinds of imperialist intervention and hegemony.

We reiterate the complete support of the people of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for the heroic people of Nicaragua in their struggle against imperialism to retain their independence and freedom.

[Signed] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

SALVADORAN FDR LEADER UNGO MEETS WITH CASTRO

PA181818 Paris AFP in Spanish 1756 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Havana, 18 Dec (AFP) -- Guillermo Ungo, leader of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), made an unexpected visit to Cuba and met with President Fidel Castro. Ungo said that he has also met with Ecuadorean President Osvaldo Hurtado and Colombian President Belisario Betancur.

Ungo said that his talks with the two South American presidents had been "favorable." They discussed the FDR-FMLN proposals for a "broad and unlimited" dialogue to end the Salvadoran conflict. Ungo said that Fidel Castro had said that the proposal is "worthy, realistic, and responsible."

Further on Meeting in Havana

PA182147 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, has described the FDR-FMLN proposal for a dialogue as a dignified, realistic and responsible contribution by El Salvador's democratic and revolutionary forces. This initiative deserves the support of Cuba and the world's progressive sectors, Castro said in a meeting with FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo.

Ungo, who had been visiting Cuba since Tuesday, told the local and foreign press that they analyzed the problems of Central America and El Salvador in this meeting and that the Cuban leader expressed concern about the real danger that the Salvadoran conflict might be internationalized.

He added that Castro agreed on the need to promote area peace and detente through a broad dialogue without discrimination and through respect for the principles of the people's self-determination and nonintervention.

Ungo stressed that despite the Salvadoran regime's rejection of the democratic and revolutionary forces' proposal, it is obtaining increasing support from important political, social, religious and army sectors in the country and has gained broad acceptance internationally.

RAUL CASTRO DEPARTS FOR MOSCOW ANNIVERSARY FETE

FL181230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, first vice president of the councils of State and Ministers and Minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces], last night departed for Moscow leading a party and government delegation invited to the festivities marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the USSR.

He was bid farewell at the airport by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

The official delegation is made up by Vilma Espin de Castro, alternate member of the Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban Women; Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions; Rene Rodriguez, member of the Central Committee and president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples; and Rene Anillo, alternate member of the Central Committee and Cuban ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Konstantin Katushev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and Soviet ambassador to Cuba, also accompanied the Cuban delegation.

Also on hand to bid farewell to the Cuban delegation headed by Raul were Comrades Jorge Risquet, member of the Politburo; Division Generals Abelardo Colome, Senen Casas, and Sixto Batista, and Jesus Montane, all alternate members of the Politburo; and Manuel Pineiro, member of the party Central Committee and chief of its Americas Department; as well as officials of the Soviet Embassy in Cuba.

VALDES MEETS WITH CSSR'S GUSTAV HUSAK

FL171830 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] In Prague, the chief of state and general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Gustav Husak, has received Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Menendez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and minister of the interior.

Husak and Valdes Menendez both considered the results of the fruitful and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries as highly positive. They expressed their mutual objective to continue to strengthen and develop bilateral relations for the benefit of peace, progress and the advancement of socialism.

Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Menendez has been on an official visit to Czechoslovakia since last Wednesday.

ALMEIDA HONORED BY SAUDE MARIA IN BANQUET

FL172225 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Socialist Cuba has played an important role in the strengthening of the Nonaligned Movement, in the struggle for detente and in today's complex international situation, Victor Saude Maria, vice president of the Council of the Revolution and prime minister of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, has asserted during a banquet he hosted in honor of Juan Almeida Bosque, member of Cuba's Communist Party Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, who is paying an official visit to that nation.

Saude Maria referred to the fruitful, friendly relations existing between Cuba and Guinea-Bissau, based on the two people's common struggle for a better future and for building a new society. He valued very highly Cuba's aid to his country, especially in the education and public health sectors.

Joint Communique Issued

PA191939 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] Cuba and Guinea-Bissau have emphasized Cuba's internationalist aid to Angola and rejected imperialism's attempts to condition Namibia's independence to the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola. The declaration is included in a joint communique released in Bissau at the end of the official 3-day friendly visit to Guinea-Bissau by Juan Almeida, vice president of the Cuban Council of State.

The document states that the problem of Namibia should be solved in accordance with the UN resolutions on this matter. It condemns South Africa's aggressive actions against the independent African countries. Cuba and Guinea-Bissau also expressed their deep concern over the critical political situation in the world. They called for general and complete disarmament as well as international detente.

FOREIGN SECRETARIAT RELEASES POLICY STATEMENT

FL171320 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] The Secretariat of State for Foreign Relations has issued its first news release of the Government of National Unity. The Foreign Relations Secretariat's news organization included, in a 12-page release, citizen-President Salvador Jorge Blanco's guidelines to establish the Dominican Republic's foreign policy and the Santo Domingo Declaration, which was signed in Santo Domingo by five Central American and Caribbean heads of state. This declaration, considered essential in defining Dominican foreign policy, laid down clearly and firmly not only the objectives and guidelines, but also the political, social and economic problems confronted by Latin American and Caribbean nations.

The Foreign Secretariat's release also covered other activities related to its tasks and functions. Several copies of the release are being sent to the various embassies and diplomatic missions of countries having relations with the Dominican Republic. The document contains specific instructions to ensure that it gets the widest possible public dissemination. It will also be sent to national and international cultural, educational and artistic institutions.

ISA CONDE OFF TO MOSCOW VIA MEXICO, CUBA

FL171515 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Text] Narciso Isa Conde, secretary general of the Dominican Communist Party [PCD], has departed for Moscow via Mexico and Havana. It was announced that the reason for the PCD top leader's trip is to meet in Moscow with the new leaders of the Soviet Union headed by Yuri Andropov, former chief of the Soviet secret police who is now CPSU general secretary. Isa Conde had been in Moscow a few weeks ago attending the funeral of the chief of state and CPSU secretary general, Leonid Brezhnev. It is not known whether other Latin American Communist leaders will also take part in that meeting in Moscow.

POPULAR SOCIALIST, LIBERATION PARTIES MERGE

FL171435 Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The Popular Socialist Party [PSP] announced its merger yesterday with the Dominican Liberation Party [PLD]. The announcement of the merger between the two organizations was made yesterday at a press conference called by leaders of the two parties at the national headquarters of the PLD. Dr Rafael Albuquerque, secretary general of the PLD, put it this way:

[Begin Albuquerque recording] We have called this press conference to announce that the national directorates of the PLD and PSD have decided to merge the two organizations within the PLD. This unification has come about after a long period of working together which served to establish the agreement of the two parties in understanding the main problems affecting the Dominican people. [end recording]

According to Albuquerque, the merger agreement was approved by the PLD Central Committee and will be presented to its party congress for ratification. The special (Freddie Valdez) PSP congress, held this month, also approved the merger.

GRENADA

SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVES TO DISCUSS PLANNING

PA192113 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Dec 82

[Text] A high-level Soviet delegation led by Nikolay Pavlovich Lebedinskiy, deputy chairman of the leading planning body, has arrived in St Georges, the Grenadian capital. The visiting delegation will meet with Grenadian authorities to discuss economic planning.

SAINT LUCIA

COMPTON SCORES SURINAME MILITARY FOR KILLINGS

FL162120 Bridgetown CANA in English 2040 GMT 16 Dec 82

[By Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, Saint Lucia, Dec 16, CANA -- Saint Lucia today accused the ruling military in Suriname of fabricating a coup plot to liquidate its opponents in political disturbances there last week. "This is something any repressive regime would say when it is in trouble. I think it was just an internal political problem and the authorities decided to solve it in this final manner by eliminating their opponents," Prime Minister John Compton said.

The Suriname military last Wednesday announced it had uncovered a December 25-26 coup plot by the country's "rich elite" and subsequently said 15 arrested persons had been shot dead by soldiers while trying to escape custody. Diplomatic and other sources however contend that as many as 40 people might have been executed by the military in the wake of the trouble.

Mr Compton said the situation in Suriname had only served to Jeopardise the Dutch republic's quest for closer association with the 12-nation Caribbean Community (Caricom). The incidents in the former Dutch colony showed what was to be expected when governments were put in place by the ballot. The military in Paramaribo seized power in a February 1980 coup. "Written or unwritten, we know that the Caribbean Community government's should be chosen and changed in a certain manner and with this aberration on the part of Suriname, I think it will make it more difficult for them to be associated with the Caricom Community," Compton said. He added: "We would be very reluctant to support any request for admission or association coming from Suriname. This is fundamental. Any country wishing to associate itself with the community, should (use) our manner of choosing and changing governments."

Suriname, which has observer status on a number of Caricom ministerial committees, has for some time now been seeking closer relations with the regional grouping.

"Events in Suriname show that once the democratic process is breached, the temptation to resort to force when there are political problems in inevitable," Compton said.

The Saint Lucia prime minister added that though the events which took place in Suriname were an internal matter, they had happened within the Caribbean Basin and in a country which is seeking association with Caricom. "We, as Caricom states, therefore, can not close our eyes on the events for if Suriname is serious about establishing stronger ties in the grouping, it is expected to conduct itself in a manner which would not cause displeasure," he said.

BOUTERSE REJECTS FOREIGN PRESSURE ATTEMPTS

FL181720 Bridgetown CANA in English 1648 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Paramaribo, Suriname, Dec 18, CANA -- Suriname's military government, facing strong international condemnation for the alleged execution of at least 15 persons last week, says it will not yield to foreign pressure. In a national television broadcast last night, army strongman Lieutenant-Colonel Daysi Bouterse told Surinamers now was the time to decide whether they wished to be truly independent of the outside world. "We will not give in to foreign pressure," the leader of Suriname's two and a half year old revolution said. "This is the moment we have to answer the question whether we will keep our dependence on foreign powers or really become independent." Commander Bouterse, who spearheaded the 1980 coup that installed the army in power here, was referring to the decision by both Holland, Suriname's former colonial ruler, and the United States to cut off development aid to the country.

He continued: "After the infamous deed by Israel in Lebanon recently (a reference to the massacre of Palestinians in refugee camps in Beirut), Holland continued its relations with Israel. Holland sees no reason to break relations with the racist regime in South Africa where the majority of people are being repressed and exploited by a tiny white majority," the army chief said.

Bouterse warned Surinamers that interests were at stake and if the Dutch withheld their funds, they would have to solve the problem with help from elsewhere. He did not name any country. But he stressed: "It can never be so that a foreign power will dictate what should and what should not happen in this country."

Meanwhile the official SURINAME NEWS AGENCY (SNA) announced that operations had resumed in the bauxite sector with both companies, Billiton and Suralco, back to work. Suralco closed operations last week amid the political disturbances. It was ordered by the military to start back operations by last Monday but it had not responded to the order. The workers returned to their jobs on Thursday, SNA said.

BOUTERSE ON COUP ATTEMPT, ELECTIONS, DETAINEES

FL181920 Bridgetown CANA in English 1906 GMT 18 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 18, CANA -- Suriname's military strongman Lieutenant Colonel Daysi Bouterse today dismissed as fantasy reports of executions in the Dutch republic in the wake of what the army said last week was its discovery of a Christmas coup plot. Commenting from Paramaribo in an interview with the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA) via telex, Bouterse who emerged from a 1980 coup as Suriname's chief spokesman, said it may be weeks before a new civilian government is put inplace there. He declined to set any time frame for elections in Suriname, but indicated that efforts were still underway to produce a new constitution. Bouterse said no one was in detention now as a result of the latest troubles there.

Following is the question and answer text of CANA's interview with Lt Colonel Bouterse:

Question: How soon can Suriname be expected to fully return to normal?

Answer: We are working all together to normalise the situation. Prominent persons have offered their services, like trade union leaders, clergymen, managers of companies, the president of the Union of Policemen, people from the trade and business sector, and many others who want to cooperate in the normalisation process which has already started. I expect that in a few weeks calm will be restored.

Question: How long will the curfew last?

Answer: The curfew will remain as long as necessary. We do not want society to suffer from it, but we have to take full account of all aspects of security. But curfew will not be prolonged one day longer than necessary.

Question: When will the university reopen?

Answer: We hope to reopen it within three months.

Question: What will be done about the university administration in the light of its apparent involvement inthe alleged coup plot?

Answer: Investigations will have to prove to what extent those who have obstructed the innovations will be called to account for this.

Question: When will private radio stations and newspapers be allowed to reopen for business again?

Answer: This will happen in dialogue with the new government. What we have to look after is that those media are used in a correct way, and we're working on a code of ethics.

Question: How many people are detained following discovery of [the] plot?

Answer: No one is held in custody now.

Question: You said some overseas countries were involved in the alleged plot. Which were they?

Answer: Countries that have interests here and who do not wish our revolutionary process to achieve success. Those countries see that as a danger to their interests.

Question: When will the (civilian) government be announced?

Answer: It's been only one week since the recent events and on short notice like that one cannot form a new government. All I can say now is that it will be a matter of weeks.

Question: What type of government does the military want for Suriname?

Answer: It is time for us to form a truly revolutionary government in which the working class and the oppressed can recognise themselves. This government will correct the slight mistakes which were made at the expense of the working class, as much as possible. This government will have as one of its priorities, to keep the cost of living as low as possible and see to it that the basic needs of the people are guaranteed, so that confidence and hope in the future will grow.

Question: What is your reaction to widespread reports of more than 30 executions following the uncovering of the plot?

Answer: Those rumors can be sent to the realm of fairy tales. It is resentful that certain media try to stigmatise us. It is resentful that they try to put Cuba and the Soviet Union in an unfavourable light. We protest forcefully against all false information which is mainly coming from Holland. This false information serves the objective of creating unrest in Suriname and to isolate us from the rest of the world, especially from the Caribbean.

Question: What is the reaction of the military to the concern expressed by Barbados about last week's events in Suriname?

Answer: We understand Barbados' concern about our internal affairs and we are of the opinion that we have to react according to our findings in our country. If a massacre had taken place on December 25 such as the counterrevolutionaries had planned, Barbados would have had even more reason to be concerned.

Question: When will Suriname's new constitution be promulgated?

Answer: We have always given serious attention to a new consitution. As you know we were in the process of having discussions about this constitution and were speaking at a national level about a constituancy. Because of the recent events we are behind in our schedule and this is one of the matters to which we will give high priority.

Question: How does the military expect that last week's events will affect relations with Caricom?

Answer: We fully understand that all kinds of organisations are concerned. However we hope that when the situation is back to normal and we will present our new policy everyone will understand, recognise and respect this.

Question: When will there be elections in Suriname?

Answer: For years we have had elections in Suriname and we know what the results of those are. We are of the opinion that elections must be held, but we want democratic controllable structures. We do not want elections that will take us back to the situation which existed before February 25, 1980.

SRS RADIO REPORTS ESCAPE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

FL180024 Bridgetown CANA in English 2348 GMT 17 Dec 82

[By Mike James]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 17, CANA -- Suriname's state-owned SRS Radio, monitored here said today 14 persons detained in connection with what the military said last week was its discovery of a Christmas coup plot, have escaped. The radio monitored here said police were searching for the escapees, who sawed through the iron bars at police headquarters Tuesday night. Six other detainees who escaped at the same time were recaptured the following day, the radio said. It gave no names. SRS Radio also reported that "a number of persons" were arrested following yesterday's illegal march in the capital, which was dispersed by police using water cannon. It said a group of mainly women dressed in black staged a peaceful demonstration through the streets of Paramaribo singing the national anthem. They said they were marching in memory of a number of prominent citizens killed by the military on December 8. SRS Radio also said that some 25 Dutch citizens from Holland took part in Tuesday's march, which slowed down traffic in the capital for several hours. Following the march the radio quoted military and police authorities as saying that there is still a ban on gatherings and demonstrations and that serious action would be taken against violators of the regulations in future.

The Guyana Airways Corporation (GAC) reported today that Suriname authorities had reopened Zanderij Airport to GAC flights which would resume shortly. The state-owned GUYANA NEWS AGENCY said that about 160 visitors, including Guyanese, travelled by boat from Guyana to Suriname today. It added that Guyana Ambassador to Suriname Pryor Jones, along with three Cuban diplomats, Jose Straga, Orlando Hernandez Sanchez and Carlos Rarranga, have left here aboard the Guyana vessel "M.V. Silvana - 11" for Suriname on Wednesday.